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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-086 *4 May 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Direct Phone Set Up Between 'Arafat, Rabin Bureaus

TA0305144895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 May 95 p 2

[Report by David Regev]

[FBIS Translated Text] A direct telephone link has recently been established between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's bureau and the office of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. This was reported by Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip yesterday.

The two leaders can use the direct line to discuss various issues related to the peace process and to attempt to find rapid solutions for problems that could arise as a result of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Palestinian Police activities in the Palestinian Autonomy and along its borders with Israel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Meeting on Israeli Expropriation Previewed

NC0405070695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs, has stated that the Arab League General Secretariat has prepared all the necessary files for the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo on Saturday [6 May]. He said that every Arab country wants to attend and to adopt the appropriate resolution to confront the serious challenge and momentous development resulting from Israel's expropriation of Palestinian property in holy Jerusalem. In a statement published in AL-AHRAM today, he said that the mere issuing of a resolution or statement condemning the act or appealing to the United Nations to adopt the necessary measures on this issue will not be enough, noting that condemnation has never deterred Israel, that the United Nations is crippled, and that the United States is the only country that can put pressure on Israel if it wishes.

Ambassador 'Imran expressed his surprise that the Security Council and the United States pass sanctions only against the Arab countries, as if Israel is officially above international law. He called for imposing international sanctions and a blockade on Israel if it does not back down on other measures that could destroy the chances of peace in the region.

Committee Views UMA Progress, Makes Recommendations

LD0305203095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 32d session of the UMA [Arab Maghreb Union] follow-up committee has come out with rich recommendations, reflecting the inevitability of the introduction of new means and ways of action that take into account the living experience of each member country. The other thing that is new, as far as this session is concerned, is the presence of the Moroccan delegation, a matter that gave more effectiveness to the joint efforts being made for building the Union. Here is a dispatch by Mohamed Chekib:

[Begin Chekib recording] During two days of work, the leaders of the Maghreb delegations reviewed the Union's progress at various levels—establishments, organizational, and financial. Common to all were the preoccupations regarding the revival of the Maghreb structures and the expansion of decisionmaking mechanisms. [passage omitted]

The session of the follow-up committee was crowned by several recommendations that will be submitted to the foreign ministers of the UMA member countries for approval and adoption. [end recording]

Islamic Affairs

Islamic World League Denounces Israeli Land Seizure

LD0305184495 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1547 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mecca, 3 May 1995, SPA—The General Secretariat of the Islamic World League denounced in Mecca the Israeli occupation forces' confiscation of Palestinian citizens' lands in holy Jerusalem, where they confiscated 53 hectares of land from East Jerusalem with the approval of the Israeli prime minister, who announced his approval of the decision to confiscate the Arab lands to build houses for the Jews on them.

The official spokesman of the league said that the confiscation of Palestinian citizens' lands confirmed the Israeli Government's intentions to usurp the holy city of Jerusalem and work toward completing its Judaization by substituting Jewish settlers in it for the Arab population.

He added that the Israeli occupation authorities intended to confiscate more Palestinian lands, where the Zionist newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST announced that the Jerusalem municipality was preparing to confiscate additional 440 hectares to build houses for Jews on them.

The spokesman pointed out that these Israeli measures contradicted the Israeli Government's public announcements about its desire for peace. They are also at conflict with international resolutions, including the Security Council's Resolution No. 242, which demanded that Israel withdraw from Arab Jerusalem and from the territories occupied by the Israeli forces in 1967.

The spokesman pointed out that, while the Israeli Government was confiscating lands in Jerusalem, it was preparing to declare this Islamic, Arab city a city for the

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Jews through the so-called "Jerusalem 3000" celebrations, for which the government of the Zionist entity was preparing on the pretext of marking the third millennium anniversary by declaring the city of Jerusalem a capital for Israel.

The spokesman said that the general secretariat of the Islamic World League, which represented the Muslim peoples and communities, condemned all the Israeli measures that infringed on Pan-Arab and Islamic Jerusalem and also condemned all the arbitrary measures to expel the Palestinian citizens for the sake of housing the Jewish settlers and investing them with ownership of Arab lands.

The spokesman called on the United Nations to carry out its commitments and to take the necessary measures to prevent Israel from seizing Arab lands and to return the seized land to its owners.

He explained that remaining silent to the seizure of Arab land encouraged Israel to carry out more oppressive and hostile practices and measures against Arabs and their property in holy Jerusalem and other Palestinian territory.

The spokesman praised the international quarters, which refused to participate in Israel's celebrations called Jerusalem 3000, such as the European Union and the Vatican. He called on all the states of the world to refuse to participate in the celebrations with the Zionists because they are celebrations of illegal and illegitimate seizure. He called on them to also try to stop the seizure of Arab land.

The spokesman called on the Arab League and the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] to follow up the resolutions and recommendations that were adopted by the Islamic summit conferences and conferences on Jerusalem. These were held in several cities of the world, including a Cairo conference entitled: "Jerusalem, The City of Peace," which stressed its Islamic and Arab characters. It called on the world to prevent the operations of Judaization and the seizure of land in this city and to return it to its Palestinian owners, as it has been throughout history.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 28 Apr

NC0205172995

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 28 April edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

Contents:

1. Lawsuit Filed Against Teachers Association Elections

2. Minister Says Teachers With Extremist Ideas To Be Removed

3. Islamist, Pan-Arab Figures Meet To Coordinate Activities

4. Islamic Ulema Warn Against Annihilation of Hamas, Others

5. Release of 44 Detained Lawyers Demanded

6. Writer Urges U.S. Society To Return to God's Path

7. Heads of Islamic Studies Centers Meet

8. Islamic Teacher Views Conditions in Occupied Territories

LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST TEACHERS ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

A 250-word report on page 1 by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad says that Islamist members of the Teachers Association have filed a lawsuit with the Administrative Court demanding the annulment of the association's mid-term elections held on 27 April. They said that the elections were rigged and held despite a ruling from the Tanta Administrative Court not to hold them. The reports adds that the Islamist candidates were barred for more than one hour from entering the electoral centers to vote but were allowed later following the intervention of the association's chairman.

MINISTER SAYS TEACHERS WITH EXTREMIST IDEAS TO BE REMOVED

A related 2,200-word report by the same author on page 2 details the general meeting of the Teachers Association on 26 April. It says that the meeting was held amid stringent security measures and lasted only 50 minutes. The association's budget was not discussed because of the "teachers' rebellion against the education minister and their association." The report details at great length the conferees' heckling of the minister during his speech and their persistent demand for a seven percent increase in the examinations allowance and not one of only five percent. A representative of the teachers, the report adds, was allowed to address the meeting on their behalf and he reiterated the demands for more pay, complained about the search the teachers had to undergo at the hands of the security men when they arrived, and also raised the issue of "the 4,000 teachers transferred from classes and given administrative work after having devoted all their lives to teaching. These teachers have not been transferred as a result of judiciary investigations and no charges or suspicions have been raised against them." The report adds that the education minister replied to this by saying: "Regarding the issue of the transferred teachers, your representative said there are 4,000 and he obtained this figure from a known opposition paper (AL-SHA'B). I tell you this: Any teacher who disseminates extremist ideas while teaching will be immediately removed. This is no joking matter. Tampering with education is completely prohibited because education is a field completely proscribed to extremists." The teachers demanded the teachers' immediate return and continued to shout slogans against the minister, the report concludes, thus prompting the officials to cut the meeting short.

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ISLAMIST, PAN-ARAB FIGURES MEET TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES

An unattributed 300-word report on pages 1 and 6 details the meeting between leading Islamic and pan-Arab figures and their discussion of various issues facing the nation.

ISLAMIC ULEMA WARN AGAINST ANNIHILATION OF HAMAS, OTHERS

A 200-word item on page 1 reports on a statement issued by leading Islamic leaders and ulema warning against the liquidation of the Islamic Resistance Movement and other jihad forces.

RELEASE OF 44 DETAINED LAWYERS DEMANDED

A 400-word item by Khalid Yunus on page 1 reports on a campaign launched by the Lawyers Association and the Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] on Wednesday, 26 April, demanding the release of "44 lawyers some of whom have been detained between three and five years without any legal base." The campaign was launched to mark the first anniversary of the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani under torture during his detention. The item reports on a news conference held by the association's chairman and another by the EHRO in which they demanded an investigation into Madani's death and the release of the detained lawyers.

WRITER URGES U.S. SOCIETY TO RETURN TO GOD'S PATH

A 5,000-word article by 'Adil Husayn on page 5 takes the case of the Oklahoma bombing to make a comprehensive analysis of what he terms the "signs of collapse in American society" as a result of deviation from God's path, adding that "we reject what is happening in American society and we certainly do not regard it an example to be followed but believe that most of our present misfortunes are brought about by our rulers who are following the United States and seeking to emulate it because some of them are agents and others are dazzled by it."

The writer lists the factors of collapse as the disappearance of the extended and then nuclear family unit, the increasing divorce rates, the decrease in heterosexual marriage, homosexuality, rapes, unwed mothers, abortions, and drugs, in all of which the United States is the record holder. He adds that Reagan's policy then compounded all these problems, especially as it gave prominence to materialism and selfishness at the expense of the communal interest. He says that the U.S. political system "does not have the ability to lead the desired reforms. Even if some of its leaders have the right ideas for solving the problems and want to change the prevailing beliefs and policies, they are prevented from doing so by the selfish ones who are benefiting from the current rotten system. The satanic television is deceiving and helping maintain this decadence. The saying that U.S. television has more influence on the President's decisions than his advisers or aides is true."

The writer goes on to say that there are growing trends in U.S. society that are increasingly opposed to the prevailing materialistic and temporal drift, realizing that this drift is against nature, wipes away smiles and feelings of safety, and is even threatening economic progress.

But, he adds, "these religious or spiritual movements in the West remain weak and suppressed. It is the duty of the contemporary Islamic awakening to seek to promote and guide them according to the true tenets of God's religion so as to move toward moderation and justice. To those who think that we are waging a racist war against the West, we say that there is no such thing in our religion. We are only fighting the Western forces that oppress and do us injustice. To those who think that it is a war between Islam and Christianity, we say that it is a war where the believers are allied against the materialistic and temporal ones who blaspheme against God, the resurrection, and the day of judgment."

He then gives advice to Egypt's rulers and tells them: "If the attempt to extinguish God's light in the Western countries is difficult at present, then it is impossible in our country. Our nation will not agree to exchange the better for the worse. Our nation will not agree to imitate the U.S. example with its collapsing materialist civilization and insists on the rebirth of its Islamic civilization with its moderate and fair principles that bring goodness to the world and to afterlife. We see that you are in fact disseminating through your official media the values of the Western materialistic civilization with all its vices, corruption, theft, filthy opulence, injustice, and poverty for the oppressed. When all this led to violence and the shedding of blood, you were pleased because you have become an exact copy of the United States."

In conclusion, the writer warns the regime against rigging the forthcoming parliamentary elections and urges it to fear God in order to contain the sedition and troubles.

HEADS OF ISLAMIC STUDIES CENTERS MEET

An unattributed 150-word item on page 6 reports on the meetings held by heads of Islamic universities and Islamic studies colleges from all over the world that began on 26 April. The conferees discussed the role of such centers in society while the al-Azhar shaykh called for forming specialized groups to reply to the unfair accusations leveled against Islam.

ISLAMIC TEACHER VIEWS CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

In an interview with correspondent Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid published on page 6, Dr. Hamzah Dhib Mustafa, dean of the College of Propagation and Religion in al-Quds University, speaks about the bad economic, social, educational, and agricultural conditions in the occupied territories and Jerusalem and voices the

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opinion that "the jihad operations might speed up the political settlement if the Palestinian Authority and 'Arafat exploit these winning cards (that is the jihad operations) to wrest many Palestinian rights from Israel through them."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 25 Apr

NC0205074295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 25 April edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writers View Oklahoma Blast

2. Lawyers Denounce EHRO's Suit Against Al-Azhar Shaykh

3. Islamic Universities League Conference Meets in Cairo

4. Column Praises Egypt's Performance on Libyan Pilgrims

WRITERS VIEW OKLAHOMA BLAST

A 170-word unattributed report on page 1 under a banner headline "Oklahoma Explosion Affirms Terrorism Not Islamic Make" says that the horrific blast that destroyed a U.S. federal building in Oklahoma City confirms that terrorism is not an Islamic creation as "the majority of Americans and the West in general believe." It says that the Americans were amazed at the cruelty of the operation when they found out that the perpetrators of the crime were Americans and that terrorism is a "local U.S. creation." The report notes that the Arabs and Muslims living in the United States received thousands of threats to kill them and avenge the blast when Zionist circles and U.S. media tried to blame it on Muslims and Arabs.

In his regular column on page 1, 'AQIDATI Board Chairman Samir Rajab in 400 words says that when the Egyptian soldiers shouted God is great on 6 October 1973, God enabled them to break through the Barlev Line in the Sinai. Throughout the negotiations with Israel to regain the Sinai, the Egyptian negotiators had boundless faith in God and in their homeland. Turning to terrorism, he says that when the "forces of oppression and aggression" imposed on the Egyptians the "irrelevant battle" of terrorism, they "defeated" terrorism with the same genuine faith. He says that the United States, with all its resources and technological potential, stands "afraid and impotent" and fails to take decisive steps in the face of terrorism even though it dealt differently with the masterminds and perpetrators of acts of terror in Egypt.

Commenting on the same subject, Majdi Salim in a 600-word column entitled "Oklahoma Blast and the Real Enemy" on page 8, says that when the blast occurred everyone thought that a wave of hostility and hatred would sweep over every Muslim and Arab because they currently are the potential enemies of the United States and the rest of the West after the demise of communism. He adds that once an investigation proved that the culprits were American, everyone realized that in the United States itself there is a more cruel enemy. He notes that the U.S. investigation team did not respond to the public feeling that readily wanted to accuse the Muslims and Arabs. He argues that the real enemy is old and emerged when the early European settlers in America exterminated its original population. The European settlers sowed the seeds that yielded the enemy when they brought Africans and enslaved them to be the victims of the new world, making America the homeland of racism.

In a 300-word column on page 21, columnist 'Adil Dayf slams the Western media for persistent accusations that Muslims and Arabs are behind any act of terrorism anywhere in the world. He says that in the wake of the Oklahoma blast, the U.S. media "deluded" the public into believing that Muslims and Arabs were wanted for suspicion of complicity in the blast. He notes that even though President Clinton and U.S. officials asserted that there was no proof that the criminals were outsiders, the U.S. media and Jewish circles continued to accuse Arabs and Muslims. He notes that the Arab and Muslim American organizations stressed that they had nothing to do with that crime. He stresses that the Arabs and Muslims denounce all forms of terrorism and call on the U.S. authorities to uncover the real criminals to prove to the world that they are innocent of this abominable crime.

Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, in his 600-word back page column, says that when the Oklahoma blast occurred two different stances emerged. The first was expressed by President Clinton and the attorney general, who said that the crime cannot be blamed on any party before investigations were complete. The second was expressed by certain information media, which said that the culprits are probably Muslims or Arabs. The incident proved to be a "local U.S. creation" and that violence and extremism exist in U.S. society as in any other and that these factors may exacerbate for economic, social, cultural, and political reasons. The incident also proved that ready accusations and "premeditated bias" dominating U.S. public opinion do not necessarily express the facts. The incident shows that the U.S. media needs to "reconsider its attitude to be more objective and fair." The incident also proves that the Arabs and Muslims need to exert more efforts to show the facts that U.S. media and Zionist influence seek to conceal. The incident should serve as a new start for both Arabs and Americans.

LAWYERS DENOUNCE EHRO'S SUIT AGAINST Al-AZHAR SHAYKH

A 150-word unattributed report on page 1 says that groups of lawyers have denounced the suit filed by the

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Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] against al-Azhar rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq because of the fatwa he gave on circumcision. The lawyers stressed that the suit is an insult to al-Azhar and an attempt to marginalize the Islamic role in influencing all aspects of life in Egypt

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITIES LEAGUE CONFERENCE MEETS IN CAIRO

A 500-word unattributed report on page 2 notes that al-Azhar rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq will open the fifth general conference of the Islamic Universities League in Cairo on 26 April. He says that some 60 presidents of Islamic universities in the Arab and Islamic worlds will attend. Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Shaykh, al-Azhar University president and vice president of the Islamic Universities League, says that the convening of the conference in Egypt comes in appreciation of its pioneering Islamic role, its concern to spread true Islamic thoughts, and its support for Islamic education worldwide. Al-Azhar University vice president Dr. Ja'far 'Abd-al-Salam names the scholars attending the three-day conference and explains its work program, recommendations, and the challenges of the 21st century to the Islamic universities.

Commenting on the Islamic Universities League conference, Basyuni al-Halawani, in his regular 500-word column on page 6, notes the importance of the vital activities of the Islamic conferences held in Egypt in the past few years. He notes that Islamic scholars frequently meet in Egypt and hold free discussions and express their views away from "political exploitation" that occurs in Islamic conferences in other countries. He hopes that the discussions will be serious and objective to promote Islamic education, which is being assailed from all sides. He says that certain quarters accuse Islamic education of being backward and of failing to cope with the modern age while others accuse it of feeding the extremist trend in the Islamic World. He urges the scholars attending the conference to give a decisive response to these accusations. He hopes that the Islamic culture will be incorporated in the public universities curricula now that it has been proven that the Islamic universities are more immune to extremism and effectively confront it than the public universities.

COLUMN PRAISES EGYPT'S PERFORMANCE ON LIBYAN PILGRIMS

An 'AQIDATI-signed 500-word column on page 3 says that the regional and international developments affirm beyond any doubt Egypt's leading role in serving the Islamic issues. Noting the recent Egyptian stance on the issue of the Libyans who wanted to make the pilgrimage to Mecca under the international embargo imposed on Libya, it says that Egypt addressed the situation "wisely and rationally." President Mubarak interceded to find the means to fulfill the Libyan brothers' right to perform their religious rites. Egypt exerted diplomatic efforts on all levels to perform its Islamic duty without infringing on the international legitimacy. Thanks to Egypt's diplomacy, 6,000 Libyans will be able to perform the pilgrimage. Egypt's role in serving the Muslims and unifying their ranks would serve to silence those who seek to outbid its role and to refute the claims of detractors of its religious status. The column exhorts the pilgrims not to turn the pilgrimage occasion into "political gatherings and leveling of vituperations" and rejects "exploitation" of this holy occasion by certain parties to serve political purposes.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Condemns U.S. Trade Embargo Against Iran

NC0305191795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement distributed in Damascus today, the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, condemned U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to impose a complete trade embargo against Iran. The statement says the decision, which has a U.S. form and a Zionist content, was issued as a great service to the Zionists, who are fighting Muslims under the cover of combating fundamentalist terrorism. The statement stresses that the U.S. Administration's insistence on maintaining its biased policy in favor of Zionist military superiority and on accusing Islam of terrorism will inflame Arab and Islamic sentiments against the United States.

Hamas Leader Discusses Goals, 'Holy War'

AU0305143795 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 3 May 95 p 12

[Interview with 'Imad al-Faluji, Hamas leader in Gaza and the West Bank, by Armin Wertz; place and date not given: "We Are on the Point of Winning, We Will Not Lose"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Wertz] Do you reject the Oslo agreement?

[Al-Faluji] Of course.

[Wertz] But why?

[Al-Faluji] Only the Israelis benefit from it. The Palestinians did not get minimal rights.

[Wertz] As a beginning, they got half of Gaza and Jericho, and the enlargement of the autonomous Palestinian territory is being negotiated.

[Al-Faluji] That is not true. As long as Israel controls the borders of Gaza and is able to close them anytime, I do not have a minimum of autonomy. Israel continues to control us. Nobody can leave Gaza without Israel's permission, the settlements are growing.

[Wertz] Israel substantiates that by justified security interests.

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[Al-Faluji] Israel does not want peace, it only wants security. And there it works hand in hand with the Palestinian security forces. Israel can constantly break the Oslo agreement by referring to its security. I have not benefited from it.

[Wertz] Nevertheless, you were released from prison as a consequence of the agreement?

[Al-Faluji] We have not benefitted from it, therefore Israel should not feel safe.

[Wertz] Attacks by Hamas or other groups do not help the Palestinians. On the contrary, they are excluded from the Israeli labor market and the negotiations are stagnating.

[Al-Faluji] All that has been achieved so far is the consequence of our military actions. Without the so-called peace process, we would have achieved even more. In former times, the Israeli parliament openly discussed whether one has to get rid of Gaza and dismantle the settlements there—without anything in return.

[Wertz] However, the Palestinian Authority will also operate in the West Bank in the foreseeable future.

[Al-Faluji] We would have got Gaza and the West Bank also without this agreement.

[Wertz] Is it not presumptuous to believe that you could compete with the Israeli Army?

[Al-Faluji] It is not a conventional war, but a guerrilla war. Israel can beat all Arab armies. However, it can do nothing against a youth with a knife or an explosive charge on his body. And since it was unable to guarantee security within its borders, Israel entered into negotiations with the PLO.

[Wertz] Has the PLO thus become the enemy of Hamas and the target of your attacks?

[Al-Faluji] No, we welcomed the new administration, the police. We accept their authority and are prepared to cooperate with them in the development of the Palestinian society. We have good relations.

[Wertz] So you will hand over your weapons, as demanded by the Palestinian Authority?

[Al-Faluji] PLO Chairman 'Arafat knows that he cannot confiscate our weapons.

[Wertz] You want to combat Israel. 'Arafat cannot permit that.

[Al-Faluji] There we have major differences of opinion. However, we are currently holding negotiations on it with the Palestinian Authority, and we hope that they will be successful. The Palestinian Authority has also realized that Israel does not want real peace in the region, it knows that the Israeli settlements have to disappear.

[Wertz] According to the agreement, the question of the settlements is to be only discussed in the final stage of the peace negotiations.

[Al-Faluji] This need not be negotiated. If the Israelis want security, they will have to abandon their settlements.

[Wertz] You seem to prevent the fulfillment of these demands yourself?

[Al-Faluji] How?

[Wertz] Before the two attacks in Gaza in early April, one talked in Israel about the need for the dissolution of the settlement in Netzarim. After your bloody attacks, this is no longer a topic.

[Al-Faluji] We are not talking about Netzarim, we are talking about all Jewish settlements in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem.

[Wertz] Does your formulation mean that you recognize Israel's right of existence?

[Al-Faluji] I do not recognize Israel's legitimacy. I am talking about my minimum right to establish a Palestinian state in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. Only that can guarantee temporary peace.

[Wertz] Apparently, there are differences between the political and the military wing of Hamas?

[Al-Faluji] That is not true. Hamas is known for the fulfillment of agreements.

[Wertz] The armed wing, the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam brigade, will adhere to an agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority?

[Al-Faluji] Of course.

[Wertz] However, after the abductions of the Israeli soldiers, Nissim Toledano in 1992 and Nahshon Wachsman last year, the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam brigade did not respect Shaykh Yasin's call to spare the soldiers' lives.

[Al-Faluji] First of all, Yasin's appearance on Israeli television was manipulated. Israel is alone responsible for the things that happened to Wachsman or Toledano. If it had complied with the demands of Hamas, we would have released both. However, Israel regarded itself as superior and lost everything.

[Wertz] Is Yasin still the leader of Hamas?

[Al-Faluji] He is the founder and leader of Hamas. The movement has also other leaders abroad.

[Wertz] Musa Abu-Marzuq in Damascus?

[Al-Faluji] Yes.

[Wertz] Shaykh Ahmad Yusuf in Philadelphia?

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[Al-Faluji] I know him, but I do not know whether he has a leading position.

[Wertz] Are members of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigade being trained in Sudan and Iran?

[Al-Faluji] 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam is in Gaza, in Palestine, and in Jerusalem.

[Wertz] Is it organized by organizations in the United States, Saudi Arabia, or Iran?

[Al-Faluji] The Islamic movements all over the world support Hamas.

[Wertz] And they operate jointly?

[Al-Faluji] No, separately.

[Wertz] Are there no differences? After all, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood or Afghanistan's Mojahedin are Sunnites, while Iran's Revolutionary Guards are Shi'ites.

[Al-Faluji] We are everywhere, also in London, Madrid, or Germany. Of course, there are differences between Sunnites and Shi'ites. At present, we have good relations.

[Wertz] Did you change your military tactics in the past few months—away from—as you called it—the guerrilla warfare to suicide attackers?

[Al-Faluji] We are at war with Israel. And as Israel is modernizing its army, navy, and air force and equipping them with nuclear weapons and missiles, we are also trying to improve.

[Wertz] That is supposed to be a progress?

[Al-Faluji] Of course, it is always a progress if the enemy is weakened.

[Wertz] Do you ignore the Koran here?

[Al-Faluji] Why?

[Wertz] Some imams think that it is inadmissible that a human being determines the end of his life himself.

[Al-Faluji] Human life is an Islamic value. Nobody must commit suicide for economic, social, or personal reasons because the soul belongs to God alone. However, it does not contradict Islam to give one's life for one's motherland or for dignity.

[Wertz] However, the prophet forbids hopeless battles. He even permits the denial of one's faith if it preserves life.

[Al-Faluji] Right. If you are sure of losing a war, avoid it in any case. But we will not lose our war, we are on the point of winning it.

[Wertz] And you use your children for it?

[Al-Faluji] No, all of them are over 25 years. We are waging a very dangerous war. The selection of the right people is difficult.

[Wertz] What qualities do you require of an attacker?

[Al-Faluji] I do not believe that we should discuss this in greater detail. I can only tell you that the selection is very strict. If 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam recruited simple people or children, it would be easy for the Israelis to discover them.

[Wertz] You require certain physical and psychical abilities?

[Al-Faluji] I cannot tell you that. That is the business of the military wing.

[Wertz] Hamas members are prepared to commit suicide attacks?

[Al-Faluji] Do you mean all of them?

[Wertz] Do the suicide attackers come from the 'Izz-al-Din al- Qassam Brigade?

[Al-Faluji] I cannot go into detail.

[Wertz] Will Hamas participate in the elections to a Palestinian council?

[Al-Faluji] No. We have nothing to do with this peace agreement. These elections are a joke. They will be neither free nor independent because they will take place under Israeli supervision. We will only participate in internal Palestinian elections, elections to a city council, trade unions, or professional associations. There we will show the world our strength. We will wage the Holy War until we achieve the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Police Detain Hamas Members Connected to Bombings

TA0405043295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian police have detained 10 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in connection with the car bomb attacks near Kfar Darom and Netzarim. Our reporter says the 10 are all from the al-Shati' and al-Nusayrat refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

Abu-Sharif Claims Proof Libya Innocent of Lockerbie

LD0305134695 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, a Palestinian personality [adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat], says he has proof that Libya is innocent in the Lockerbie affair. This runs counter to the view of the United States, which used it to justify the imposition of sanctions against the Libyan regime. Bassam Abu-Sharif spoke to Dominique Rocle:

[Begin Abu-Sharif recording, in French] I have a file which gives proof that the U.S. accusation is not at all based on correct information.

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[Rocle] But can you tell us what this proof....

[Abu-Sharif, interrupting] No, I have already said that I am ready to give the file to an international tribunal. However, I hope that President Clinton will then—since he knows that the accusation is unfounded—make a gesture to reduce tension in the region and lift the embargo, so that the Libyan people, and Libya, can play an active part in establishing stability in the region. [end recording]

Prosecutor on Penalties for 'Illegal' Arms Use

JN0405082495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Prosecutor General Khalid al-Qidrah has called on Palestinian citizens to turn over their unlicensed weapons, especially explosives, noting that this measure is in their own best interest.

In a statement to the Palestinian News Agency, al-Qidrah said that possessing, manufacturing, importing, and trading in firearms and explosives is banned. He pointed out that the National Authority [NA] has issued a decision to collect arms from all citizens in order to preserve national security, given that the spread of arms encourages certain people to fabricate lies and do injustice to citizens. He noted that this prompted the NA to combat this phenomenon through legal channels.

He noted that the penalty for illegal possession and trading in arms could reach up to a life sentence with hard labor. He added that the maximum penalty for the illegal possession of arms is five years in prison, the possession of explosives 10 years, and that trading in army weapons ranges between 15 to 25 years imprisonment if force was used.

Al-Qidrah said that policemen are not allowed to use arms for social occasions. He said that should a policeman use his licensed weapon [on these occasions] he would be violating instructions and if he used an unlicensed weapon, he would be treated in the same manner other violators are treated in such cases.

Opposition Daily's Offices Torched; No Arrests

TA0305170395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our police affairs correspondent Kayid Zahir reported a short while ago that unidentified persons have set fire to the offices of AL-UMMAH newspaper which is published by Mr. 'Adnan al-Khatib and which opposes the Palestinian Authority. At present, police forces are investigating the circumstances of the incident.

It is worth noting that several days ago, unidentified persons raided the al-Risalah printing shop in Bayt Hanina and stole the prints of AL-UMMAH's fifth issue.

'Arafat Meets European, U.S., Islamic Jihad Envoys

JN0405074795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a European Troika delegation last night. The president asked the delegation members to convey messages to their governments on what was agreed upon at the recent Paris conference regarding the donor states' aid to the National Authority [NA]. The latest developments in the peace process were also discussed during the meeting.

The president also received U.S. Consul General Abington and asked him to convey a message to the U.S. Administration. The message deals with the delay in receiving the donor states' aid to the NA.

The president also received Mr. (Kinshen), representative of the World Bank, and the Norwegian ambassador, respectively. The meetings dealt with the donor states' aid to the NA.

His excellency also received a popular delegation from the al-Shat' Refugee Camp. The president reviewed the developments in the peace process and the multi-party plots aimed at obstructing this process.

President Yasir 'Arafat also received a delegation from the Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine-al-Aqsa Battalions. The talks dealt with the latest political developments in the Palestinian arena and the Israeli attempts to evict citizens and Judaize Jerusalem. The Islamic Jihad Movement called on the Israeli side to fully abide by its pledges provided for by the Oslo and Cairo accord.

Hamas Prisoners Interview Shaykh Yasin

95AA0133B London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Mar 95 pp 24-26

[Interview with Shaykh Yasin by unidentified Hamas prisoners at Kfar Yona prison; date not given—first three paragraphs are FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] When Ahmad Yasin is mentioned, there is no longer any need to explain who he is, because the name alone suffices. He is the entire story—the story of bravery and honor, the story of wisdom and patience, the story of Palestine from its sea to its river, the story of the martyrs who have departed bearing the posters of their shaykh glorifying martyrdom and the martyrs, the story of a figure whose picture hangs on every wall of Palestine and on the wall of every Muslim house throughout the world.

He is the entire story. We, therefore, hope that we will reach him every day to hear him and to drink from the wellspring of his wisdom. However, the prison bars of the occupation keep us from him.

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This time, the interview is conducted by prisoners of freedom—prisoners of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas—who sat with the shaykh and interviewed him. They interviewed him for themselves, for us, and for you. The following is the interview:

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Tell us of your feelings upon seeing the Hamas rally?

[Yasin] I was overcome by a feeling of satisfaction. Praise be to God the sublime, who achieved for us some of our goals in terms of the selection process in the Islamic movement and the building of foundations extending to the leadership of ordinary Palestinians and the conversion of the movement into a mass, holy-war movement. All of this is by God's grace and granting of success. I also pray humbly to God, the sublime, that he bless these crowds and unite their hearts based on brotherhood, love, sacrifice, and selflessness. As the exalted said, "Not if thou hadst spent all that is in the earth, couldst thou have produced that affection, but Allah hath done it" [Koran, 8:63]. God almighty speaks the truth.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Speak to us regarding the condition of your health.

[Yasin] Praise be to God, who alone is [even] praised for that which is unpleasant. I believe in the goodness of that which God has chosen. He, the sublime, knows best what benefits his servants and reforms them in this world and the next.

The health conditions from which I suffer are:

1. Full paralysis.
2. Allergic reaction in the lungs.
3. Chronic inflammations of the ear and resulting impairment of hearing.
4. Hemorrhoids, which are sometimes chronic and which sometimes improve.
5. Swelling in the feet.
6. Intestinal problems.
7. Shortsightedness in the right eye and farsightedness in the left.

Nonetheless, I swear by God the exalted that I have never in my life been as spiritually uplifted and as trusting in God as I am now.

Interview

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Was anything deleted from the interview that was conducted with you some time ago? Could you please comment on deletion from the interview.

[Yasin] The interview that was broadcast was not everything that was discussed. Rather, they selected an excerpt that serves their purposes and did not include anything that conflicts with their interests. For example, they asked me my opinion about kidnapping. I said that kidnapping is natural as long as there is a struggle. They then repeated the question, and I told them, "You are a state, and you kidnapped 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and Mustafa al-Dirani; why did you kidnap them? Therefore, if you do not approve of kidnapping, release them."

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] How did you view the pledge document when it was presented to you?

[Yasin] I was never presented personally with any pledge document. However, they broached the matter through meetings conducted between me and numerous persons who contacted me. For example, security personnel came to the prison and asked me to leave the prison with an airline ticket to any country of my choosing, contingent on the locating of the body of the Israeli soldier, Ilan Sa'dun. I gave the excuse that I cannot move about abroad. They said, "We will place at your disposal a car and driver." I declined, saying that I refused to leave prison in exchange for a body. Second, I consider leaving prison in such a manner damaging to my honor. I refused to leave under any proviso. Remaining in prison for 100 years is better than leaving at a price.

The briber's request was made to me in a number of meetings. I made him understand that I refused to leave prison under any proviso. If they made eating watermelon the condition, I would refuse.

An intelligence officer once came to me in prison. He asked me, "Do you not wish to return home?" I told him, "Open the door so that I may return." He said, "A small necessity is required of you". I said, "What is it." He said, "Renounce violence," and I refused.

Avi Nathan, the Israeli peace advocate, came to me. He proposed that I leave while alluding to several demands. I told him, "I refuse to leave under any proviso."

Thus, I received offers in different forms. They did not present to me any official documents, because they knew in advance that I would reject that.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] It is said that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin is a moderate figure in Hamas. Could you comment on that?

[Yasin] The exalted says, "Is then one who walks headlong, with his face groveling, better guided—or one who walks evenly on a straight way?" [Koran, 67:22] God almighty speaks the truth. Praised be to God, who made me moderate in my conduct, adhering to, and fighting on behalf of, God's coherent program of action. I lean neither to the extreme right nor to the extreme left. Rather, through this religion, I bear witness for the people, giving instruction in, and guidance toward, the true religion. The exalted speaks the truth when he says, "Thus have we made of you an Ummah [nation] justly balanced." [Koran, 2:143] If a rival testifies to my moderation, he does so by virtue of the grace of God and the acts that testify to my way of life.

Reconciliation With the Jews

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Could you address the legality, prospects, and method for undermining reconciliation with the Jews?

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[Yasin] Reconciliation with the Jews is a crime whenever its intent is to legitimize the occupation, recognize the occupation's right to a presence on our usurped land, and keep the Palestinian people wandering outside their homeland. The establishment of friendly relations with the Zionist enemy and protection of it against its adversaries who oppose and reject such reconciliation are also crimes. Therefore, the reconciliation with Israel is transforming the Arabs from enemies of Israel who demand their right to their land into friends of the Israeli enemy who protect it from every hostile act. al-Azhar in Egypt long ago issued a statement forbidding reconciliation with the Jews in implementation of this principle. If reconciliation means a truce and a cessation of fighting for a specific period of time, Islam allows the imam [leader] of the Muslims to undertake such a reconciliation if he believes that the enemy is strong and the Muslims are weak and need time to prepare and build up. I single out Palestine in particular, because it is a land of holy places and an Islamic religious endowment that cannot be conceded by any ruler, president, or king. Nor may any generation concede it, because it is the property of all generations of Muslims until the Day of Judgment.

As for the permitted duration of the truce, many Islamic jurists are of the opinion that it must not exceed 10 years. They base this opinion on the action of the prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, in the reconciliation of al-Hudaybiyah. A reconciliation may be terminated if the enemy violates any of its provisions; in this case, the Muslims are released from it, because the continuation of any reconciliation based on corruption is destined to perdition. The balance of power is not static. The strong of today are the weak of tomorrow, and the strong of tomorrow are the weak of the day after tomorrow. The exalted speaks the truth when he says, "Such days (of varying fortunes) we give to men and men by turns." [Koran, 3:140]

In other words, the termination of an invalid reconciliation depends on the Islamic nation's awakening from its heedlessness, return to God, and adherence to its lord's religion, creed, and law. In this way, it will have the spiritual and physical fortitude to restore the truth to its proper place and to eliminate the delusions of the deluded who forever rule the land of Palestine, "And Allah hath full power and control over his affairs; but most among mankind know it not." [Koran, 12:21]

However, what is being proposed today bears no relation to either legitimate reconciliation or to a legitimate truce. Rather, it is recognition of the legitimacy of the enemy's usurpation of Palestine. This is not permitted at all. Hence, it seems useless for some to speak of a truce and to permit it, because there is no place for such talk. It legitimizes a lie.

If you mean what our Palestinian cause has come to in terms of the reconciliation between the Jews and PLO, and the degree to which the Arab and Islamic nation have recognized and reconciled with Israel, I assert—appealing to God the sublime and exalted for help—that there is only one way to topple and rip apart this agreement: a holy war waged by the people of Palestine first and by the Islamic peoples who support us because of their belief in Islam. Anyone who speaks of Western democracy as a way to eliminate the occupation, colonialism, and secular governments' control over the resources of the Arab and Islamic countries is deluded. Why? Because Israel and the West want democracy to dislodge Islam and sincere Muslims from the leadership of the nation, so that Islamicists remain mere slogans and calls and power remains in the hands of Islam's enemies. Whenever the West and their agents among Arab and Muslim rulers have perceived that the loyal Islamic vanguard was on the verge of taking power, they became defensive and legislated laws to keep power in their hands, or they carried out military coups, as they did in Algeria on the argument that the Islamicists had attained power by force.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Is there a possibility of coexistence with the Palestinian Authority in view of its current actions. If so, how can this be achieved?

[Yasin] Coexistence with the authority may be possible, or it may not be possible. It is possible if the Palestinian Authority does not take hostile measures against the Islamic movement—which serve primarily the Jews—open the way for a dictatorial government similar to a one-party system, and fight operations undertaken by the ['Izz-al-Din] al-Qassam Brigades, even if such operations serve the authority's interest by getting rid of the settlements and regaining the rest of the lands on which the authority wagered in the Oslo and Cairo agreement. If the opposite obtains, the Palestinian Authority will be driven by pressure exerted by the Jews to get rid of Hamas, which the Jews themselves were unable to eliminate with their army, strength, detentions, martyrs, and blood.

I assert, if the Palestinian Authority opens fire on the Islamic forces, which have built bridges for entering Gaza, Jericho, and the West Bank, there can be no coexistence with it, because it will have become an arm of the Israeli army and Israeli intelligence, and we will fight it as we fight the Jews, mercilessly.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What is your opinion of the idea of an Islamic political party? Would it have a negative effect on Hamas' influence and activity?

[Yasin] I believe that the Islamic movement must not be stagnant in the face of the changes and new developments around it. It must adapt to anything new while maintaining its strength, growth, and spread. As for talk of a political party, it would be inappropriate to establish a political party at this time. The reason is that this is a period of a holy war with the enemy, and the establishment of a party requires the existence of an independent state, security, and stability, so that energies can be shifted to politics.

I reiterate that, given our situations in the occupied land, there is no room for the establishment of a political

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party. Let us assume that circumstances favored such a development. In this case, specialized committees would be formed to study the advantages and disadvantages of establishing such a party. Study is what determines, for the leadership of the Islamic movement, the adoption of an appropriate decision.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What is the effect of Clinton's threats against Hamas' economic and military situation?

[Yasin] Clinton's statements cannot influence Hamas' financing sources, "unless God wills it," because the movement depends, for its financing sources, on Islamic money everywhere on earth. It is not subject to the desires of one president or another, or of one state or another, because it also does not depend on states. Nonetheless, international pressures are perhaps creating a difficulty regarding the transfer of funds to the movement from abroad. Accordingly, we rely first upon God, then upon individuals and supporters of the Islamic movement throughout the world, who give money to the movement before providing for the nourishment of their children, because they believe in the utterance of the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation: "Whoever equips the warrior is equal to the warrior."

Militarily, the availability of financial aid notwithstanding, it is easy, because we wrest our weapons from the hands of our enemies and from enemy depots. As long as the members of the movement are prepared to martyr themselves, no one, God willing, can stop their military activity. Whoever seeks death is given life, and the holy war shall continue until the Day of Judgment, God willing.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Do you expect the circle of the conflict outside Palestine to expand?

[Yasin] The expansion of the circle of the conflict is expected, because anyone who studies the history of the Zionist movement and the state of Israel will see that they [the Zionists] move the struggle anywhere in the world they please without fear of anyone, because they reckon that their adversary cannot respond and does not possess the power to do so. Accordingly, the Islamic movement, Hamas, must be prepared to respond with force to any aggression carried out by Israel abroad. The response will always be inside Palestine. This is more preferable and more useful, because, if the Jews know that they will pay a high price, they will refrain from an escalation abroad. Let me give an example:

—The Tel Aviv operation frightened the Jews and made them feel helpless. They began to speak of the possibility of a dialogue with Hamas, even though they refuse to even acknowledge its existence. They did so because they know that another such martyrdom or kidnapping operation will bring down their government, and the right will take over the government in Israel. This is unacceptable to the Labor Party, and it must not let it happen. Therefore, they are prepared to do anything to stop holy-war operations and martyrdom operations that threaten the future of their state and government.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What does Israel want from a settlement with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon?

[Yasin] Israel wants, through this reconciliation, to break down the wall of hostility of the Arab states that surround it on the eastern front, as they call it, after the wall in the south with Egypt was broken down in the Camp David accord. In this way, Israel will have broken down the wall of hostility with individual Arab countries one after the other, strengthened its existence in the heart of the Arab nation, and become an acceptable entity after being a rejected alien. It will thereby open a bridge or passage for itself to the Arabian peninsula, the Gulf, and Iraq. It will make Jordan into a conduit to those areas for the booming Israeli economy, Israeli industry, and Zionist influence. In this way, Israel will achieve hegemony over the Arab nation's resources under the slogan of developing the Middle East with joint programs and international, Jewish capital. It will also open the doors to Israeli intelligence penetration into the Arab countries, corruption, and the sowing of the seeds of dissension, quarreling, and mutual fear in the Arab nation.

Israel is implanting an army of agents to serve it. It is burrowing like a woodworm into the body of the nation. Perhaps we Palestinians have realized the danger of the agents' corrupting influence and sowing of the seeds of discord and division in Palestinian society.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Could you comment on the Palestinian Authority's role in the matter of the kidnapping of Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsman?

[Yasin] The Palestinian authority's role regarding the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier, Wachsman, by the holy warriors of the 'Izz-al-Din [al-Qassam] Brigades was obvious. It passed to Israel information on the kidnappers and the location of the kidnapping when it discovered the identity of the person who conveyed the videotape to the Gaza Strip. Thus, the Palestinian Authority became an arm of Israeli intelligence and the Israeli army, because it fought to protect Israel's security more than it protects Palestinian security. The Gaza massacre on Friday, 18 November 1994, emphasizes what we have come to. Thirteen martyrs died, and close to 200 were wounded, all so that 'Arafat could prove that he can control the Palestinian people and that he is qualified to implement the rest of the agreement with Israel. Consequently, the donor countries and Israel outdid each other to disburse the funds—which they had delayed—to the Palestinian Authority as a reward for that massacre and to support 'Arafat's strength and stability after they saw that the ground was shaking under the Palestinian Authority, that the agreement was in danger, and that support for it was declining.

The Authority and Elections

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What is your opinion regarding self-rule elections?

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[Yasin] Self-rule is considered implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreement, which the Islamic movement has rejected. Accordingly, any elections held in the occupied territories to create rulers to act on Israel's behalf to administer the occupied territories and to implement those agreements will be rejected by us, as previously stated.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Some observers are betting that Hamas will come to power and enjoy the attainments of power within perhaps just a few years. What is your comment?

[Yasin] The wagerers do not know the meaning of Hamas' creed, to which it calls the people and which it is committed to implementing. One day, these people will understand Islam. They will change their position. Our position on self-rule is firm. It will not be shaken, as explained in response to previous questions. One day the mandate for the occupied territories will be transferred entirely to the Palestinians, and the state of Palestine will become an unconditioned reality that is not obligated to protect Israeli security and to defend the existence of the usurper of the land of Palestine. On that day, we will have a different view of the state, because we are members of this homeland and this people. We differ with others regarding this state, because we want it to be Islamic, and they want it to be secular and not bound by Islamic law and Islam's system and creed.

Exhortations

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What would you like to say to the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades?

[Yasin] I say to them what the sublime and exalted said: "Fight the unbelievers who gird you about, and let them find firmness in you and know that Allah is with those who fear him." [Koran, 9:123] God the almighty speaks the truth.

Whoever fears God the exalted shall apply the principles of Islam in war with our enemies as much as possible. Let us stay away from killing women, the elderly, and children. Let us not kill them unless they bear arms and fight against us, according to reciprocity. I also hope that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions will be like our worthy ancestors, lions of the night and knights of the day. God the exalted shall grant you victory over your enemy and achieve for our nation your goals of liberating the homeland and establishing an Islamic state. He is near, listening, and responding.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What advice do you have for the members of Hamas?

[Yasin] I advise them to fear God, worship and memorize the Koran out of fear of God, and use the time to learn and study out of fear of God—"O my Lord, advance me in knowledge." [Koran, 20:114] Out of fear of God, let us fill our spare time with meditation on God, not slander of our brothers. Out of fear of God, we shall love each other and influence each other. Out of fear of God, we shall pardon our brothers their errors and beg their pardon [for our errors]. Out of fear of God, we shall attend to serving and helping our brothers, in the manner in which the Koran describes the believers, saying, "[Muhammad is the messenger of Allah; and those who are with him are] strong against unbelievers, (but) compassionate amongst each other." [Koran, 48:29] God the almighty speaks the truth.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What do you advise the prisoners?

[Yasin] I advise them to be patient, because patience cures every affliction. I advise them to cooperate, foreswear disagreement, stand in solidarity in the face of the common enemy, and not provide an opportunity to be secluded from each other. I advise them to be charitable to each other, because charity is the way to love and cooperation. I pray to God for their imminent release, victory, and strength, God willing—"And Allah hath full power and control over his affairs; but most among mankind know it not." [Koran, 12:21] God almighty speaks the truth.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What do you say to ordinary Palestinians?

[Yasin] I say to them, brothers, the road to victory is filled with difficulties. However, it is sure to end in victory and empowerment in the land, God willing. Therefore, we must rely on God and endure what has befallen us. We must be wary of the enemy's poisonous propaganda in the enemy print, broadcast, and television media. The enemy wishes to divide us, making us kill each other and fight a civil war. If that happens, God forbid, we ourselves will have destroyed our unity and strength, which the enemy, with his forces and intelligence, was unable to do. Beware of his poisonous propaganda my brother propagandists, let our disagreements aim to arrive at the truth, not the imposition of one's self on others through coercion and force, because faith is reproached only on account of intolerance. Let each one of us make an effort to build a love that preserves brotherhood, the truth, good, and faith and that fights vice. The exalted says, "Help ye one another in righteousness and piety, but help ye not one another in sin and rancor." [Koran, 5:2]

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] How does the shaykh's daily life proceed?

[Yasin] My daily life is influenced by the condition of my health. Normally, we wake up early, before dawn. We stay up at night and perform the morning prayer. We then go back to sleep and wake up again at 0800. Then, we eat breakfast. Then, we step out into the first part [of the day], at 0800. I spend an average of 90 minutes reading. I then rest on the ground and do some physical exercises. I then perform the ritual ablution before noon, and perform the morning and then the noon prayer. Then lunch, then an hour for reading. At this point, I rest before the evening prayer. I then pray the prayer at

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sunset and the evening prayer, which may extend for one to two hours. I then go to sleep at 2400.

Also, each day, I review two or more thirtieths of the Koran, during prayer or otherwise. This program changes, becoming lighter or heavier, depending on the condition of my health.

Concluding Word

[Yasin] My brothers, holy warriors, the descendants of al-Bana [founder of the Muslim Brotherhood] and al-Qassam, members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, may the peace, mercy, and blessings of God the exalted be upon you:

—I praise you and God the one and only, the eternal, who grants victory to believers and subjugates the powerful. I remind you that we are callers unto God. We bear the most noble of messages of the most noble of ancestors ever known by humanity. Be up to this message! Be the best descendants of the best antecedents! Remember, the patient will be victorious; with difficulty, comes ease. I remind you of the utterance of the exalted, "And we appointed, from among them, leaders, giving guidance under our command, so long as they persevered with patience," [Koran, 32:24] and the utterance of the exalted, "And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed on the land. To make them leaders (in faith) and make them heirs." [Koran, 28:5]

—Patience, my brothers, is the way to empowerment. Strive to understand the call to which you are summoning the people. Apply it to yourselves, so that you can convince the people to believe in you and in it, and so that your holy war and building will be right. Be heedful of the meaning of love, brotherhood, sacrifice, and selflessness among yourselves. Contemplate God frequently, and recite the Koran. Do not be neglectful.

—You must be a community, for Satan is with the loner, as he is the further away of the two. Do as you say. Do well what you do. God is with those who do well. May God watch over and protect you, the missionaries, the guides of the rightly guided.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Eighth SAARC Summit Adopts Declaration, Ends

Declaration Views Terrorism, Trade

BK0405094995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The New Delhi SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit ended this morning with the leaders terming South Asia Preferential Trade Arrangement, SAPTA, as a new era of regional cooperation. The Delhi Declaration adopted at the end of the summit condemned all forms of terrorism as criminal and urged the member states to eliminate this scourge from the region. The leaders also voiced opposition to introduction of any trade barriers under the guise of social and environmental clauses and called upon all countries to refrain from taking any unilateral measures.

Concluding the three-day summit, the new SAARC chairman and prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said the Delhi Declaration reflects our resolve to ensure peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. The leaders have firmly resolved to move with utmost speed on the road to all round cooperation.

Giving vote of thanks, the president of Maldives, Mr. Gayoom, said the New Delhi summit has been a most memorable and successful meeting.

The Delhi Declaration directed the member states to take steps to ratify and operationalize the SAARC preferential trading arrangement by the end of the year. Heads of state and government of SAARC reiterated their belief that operationalization of SAPTA will strengthen SAARC as an institution for promoting welfare of the people in the region. The declaration has reaffirmed the commitment of the member states to the eradication of poverty in the region, preferably by the year 2002. It said that the member countries will have to promote support structures needed for poverty eradication including people's institutions and voluntary organizations and by fostering decentralization and local self-governance. It was decided to declare 1995 as the SAARC year for poverty eradication. The member countries have also reiterated their commitment to the purposes and the principles of the UN Charter while calling for more democratization of the United Nations and its organs. They urged the conference on disarmament to negotiate an international convention prohibiting the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons and to undertake negotiations for their complete elimination within a time bound framework.

Addressing a press conference later, the new chairman of SAARC, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, said the time has not come to include bilateral matters in the SAARC Charter as all the leaders are not in agreement on this issue. He said any change can be made only when there in unanimity. Deliberate effort of one country will not necessarily lead to changes in the charter. This is the process to evolve. Replying to a question, Mr. Rao said he had detailed discussions with President Leghari of Pakistan on Kashmir. Evidently, there are different points of view. He said the issue can be resolved if both the sides approach it with a cool mind. Mr. Rao stated that he also discussed with Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, the sharing of river waters. He said that whatever solutions are required will be found. The prime minister said the escalation of conflict in the northeast of Sri Lanka is causing concern to the SAARC leaders. He said that it is quite frightening that new types of weaponry has come into the hands of nongovernmental agencies.

Terming SAPTA as a huge program, Mr. Rao announced that commerce ministers of SAARC countries will meet

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in two to three months to discuss further lowering of tariff on a large number of items. He said the SAARC leaders have also endorsed a proposal to examine measures to make South Asia a free trade area. This will be the ultimate goal in trade and economic cooperation and all leaders are in agreement for this.

Emphasizing the relevance of the SAARC, he said many issues which cannot be solved bilaterally can be sorted out at a multilateral forum. SAARC can become a stronger force than its individual members can ever hope to be.

The next SAARC summit will be held in Male.

India's Rao Reviews Summit

BK0405061595 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0440 GMT 4 May 95

[Speech by Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao at the closing session of the eighth summit of the SAARC at the Vgyan Bhavan Convention Center in New Delhi—live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Your Majesty, presidents and prime ministers, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: Every SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit is a milestone of our united and determined endeavor on the road to regional cooperation. It generates hopes, provides reassurance, builds trust, strengthens confidence, and deepens understanding. It also maintains the momentum of progress, opens up new initiatives while consolidating past gains, provides impetus and engages in the very fundamental task of developing a regional perspective on issues of common concern and primarily on ways to fulfill one of the most important objectives of SAARC—to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and to improve their quality of life and thereby help the process of promoting and strengthening collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia. The strength of our collective commitment and our desire for a rapid growth in economic cooperation and intensified efforts toward our common objective of poverty eradication and of sustained all-round growth should considerably widen the base of our cooperation and create closer ties through increasing inter-dependence. It is our firm resolve that we shall move with the utmost speed on the road to all-round cooperation. Peace and prosperity being our message, it is through unity and dedication that we shall achieve our common objectives. We have had the opportunity to involve ourselves in all the developmental aspects of our countries individually and of our region as a whole.

Our discussions during the last two days, marked by a spirit of goodwill and cooperation, were purposeful and constructive and covered a wide range of issues of bilateral and common interests to our nations, which widens our perspective and also helps us in our relations outside the SAARC fora.

The Delhi Declaration, which have just adopted, reflects our resolve to ensure peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. Our determination to forge regional cohesion and to chart out a course which would be mutually reinforcing for our economies and societies and for our approach to the common challenges we face. We have decided to declare 1995 as the SAARC year of poverty eradication. This reflects our determination to pursue our objective of eradicating poverty, preferably by the year 2002 AD as agreed at the last summit. We have also decided to declare 1996 as the SAARC year of literacy. Our commitment to the critical social sectors will continue to be strengthened. We have resolved that the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement—SAPTA—is brought into operation by the end of this year. In response to the increasing expectations of our people for steps toward common prosperity, we decided to strengthen our focus on economic cooperation. SAARC trade fairs will be organized in most countries of our region and a meeting of captains of industry in SAARC countries would be held in India before the end of this year. This will not only strengthen people-to-people contacts but give an opportunity to all our people to see the capabilities in manufacturing and industry of the region. It would also greatly enhance the process of economic cooperation among the private sector in our region with a view to encouraging them to participate substantively in the developmental process under way in the region.

In short, while ensuring the momentum of cooperation in all the important social sectors relating to women and children as well as strengthening cooperation for combating the scourge of drugs and terrorism and also cooperative action in areas like rural development, environment, science and technology, agriculture, and communications, our primary focus at this summit has been on poverty eradication and economic cooperation. We have taken one more step toward developing SAARC into an effective vehicle for maximizing collective self-reliance and advancement in the region by continuing to harness the complementarities of the countries of the region in a positive manner.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you—Your Majesty and Your Excellencies—for the excellent support and constructive cooperation extended to me during the past two days. I would like to assure you that it will be India's endeavor to ensure that the momentum generated by our collective efforts would be sustained and progress achieved in the areas we have identified for cooperation. I am strengthened by the knowledge that in this endeavor I will have your understanding and support. Our distinguished foreign ministers, who have been ensuring effective implementation of our decisions and directives and have made an invaluable contribution to the success of the summit, deserve our sincere gratitude and appreciation. We must also thank our foreign secretaries and senior officials who have worked very hard for the success of the summit. We also extend our thanks and appreciation to our distinguished secretary general

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and his colleagues in the secretariat. Finally, I would like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to contribute to the success of this summit. For India it was an honor and a privilege to host the eighth summit. We have been delighted to have you among us. We are happy to have been able to help further the process of regional cooperation and strengthen the climate of goodwill and friendship in which we can all look to the future with confidence. Thank you. [applause].

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Algeria

FIS Offers 'Complete Rejection' of Elections Plan

MM0405104995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 May 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Salvation Front: Algerian Elections Completely Rejected"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] yesterday announced its "complete" rejection of the presidential elections the authorities are seeking to hold before the end of the year.

Its position coincided with statements by sources from the Islamic groups on armed and bombing operations in which security soldiers were killed. The authorities have, in turn, announced that they have killed 22 extremist Islamists over the past three days in various areas.

The "AL-RABAT" bulletin, which is published by "FIS supporters in Europe" and usually reflects the FIS' view, has said that the outlawed FIS "earnestly tried to avert the armed jihad as a means to achieve its Islamic plan as long as long as political jihad prospects were available." It also said that "the armed jihad became a compulsory option after the abolition of the first round of elections held in December 1991, in which the FIS won a big majority."

It also wrote that "the presidential elections plan and the insistence on implementing it before the end of the year is not a radical solution to the crisis into which they (the Algerian rulers) have pushed the country. Thus it is completely rejected."

It added: "No elections will be recognized or become legitimate before the objective conditions for boosting any endeavor to resolve the crisis are met. The authority here is the demands made by the FIS leaders and the decisions of the parties signatory to the Rome document." [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH received in London yesterday a statement from Moussa Krouche, spokesman for the "Algerian Fraternity Society in France," in which he renewed his call for boycotting the elections scheduled to be held in Algeria before the end of the year. He urged "the Algerian community in France and Europe to boycott the elections and not to respond to the appeals made by the regime's embassies and consulates for them to register their names on election lists."

Krouche, who is under house arrest near Paris, spoke of "plots" being hatched by the Algerian regime. He pointed out that "false statements attributed to the FIS are being circulated and some hypocrites are being pushed among the community to spread defamation and damage the reputation of the mujahidin and FIS supporters." He did not provide examples of this. He expressed his hope that the FIS leaders, Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, and Shaykh Abdelkader Hachani would be released soon.

GIA Threatens To Kill Wives of 'Apostates'

MM0305151595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "'Group' in Algeria Threatens To Kill 'Apostates' Mothers, Wives, and Daughters"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Armed Islamic Group [GIA] in Algeria has issued a new statement posing a threat to Algerian women. It announced that it will kill "any fighting apostate's mother, sister, and daughter, whether they live with him or whether he lives with them." In a statement signed by its amir, Abu Abdallah Ahmed, it urged "apostates' wives to abandon them because their marriage has become null and void as a result of their apostasy, and the ruling of a judge is not needed."

It added: "We also tell anyone who gives his daughter or sister in marriage [to an apostate] after this statement that he will be exposing them to murder and himself to exemplary punishment."

The statement, of which AL-HAYAH received a copy yesterday, said: "We tell the evil apostates and those associated with them that the Group will broaden the revenge for the honor of its women by killing the fighting apostates' wives, even in areas in which no honor has been violated, no sister has been harassed, and no Muslim women have been imprisoned, whether inside or outside the country. It will also broaden its revenge for their honor by killing the fighting apostates' mothers, sisters, and daughters, whether they live with the apostates or vice versa."

The statement said that the Group "is the sole legitimate banner for the jihad and the mujahidin in the country, and it has pledged to fight for the cause of God and the oppressed men, women, and children. It will continue to fulfill its pledge, God willing, until God grants it victory or until death, not dissuaded from achieving its aims by the plotters' schemes, the deception of the sly, or the laxity of the weak."

The statement concluded: "The Group will not stop implementing its statement until the last Muslim sister is released from prison and all harassment and pursuit operations and violations are halted. It is not seduced by cosmetic measures limited to a small part of the country."

Army Kills Seven GIA Leaders in Ain Defla

MM0405094895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: Seven 'Group' Amirs Killed In Ain Defla"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Reliable Algerian sources confirmed to AL-HAYAH yesterday

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that the Algerian Army killed seven Armed Islamic Group [GIA] amirs [leaders] in the Ain Defla area yesterday. The sources said that the seven were principal leaders in this extremist group and belonged to its most extremist wing.

The Ain Defla area witnessed fierce confrontations in March following operations launched by the GIA. Some 300 to 2,800 GIA elements were killed.

At another level, President Liamine Zeroual is expected to deliver a speech next Monday evening on the 50th anniversary of the 1945 massacres. It has been reported that Zeroual will announce in the speech his intention not to run in the presidential elections scheduled to be held before the end of the year.

The parties to the "national covenant" will meet at the National Liberation Front's headquarters on Saturday. They are expected to issue a statement criticizing the official media and its coverage of the situation in Algeria.

Security Forces 'Eliminate' 11 'Criminals'

LD0305232895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services has announced that the security forces were able to eliminate 11 criminals in the capital Algiers, Constantine, Tiaret, and Jijel. During these operations, the security forces recovered a quantity of weapons.

Workers Permitted To Join Privatization Program

LD0405104595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The preliminary program in connection with privatizing public enterprises, approved by the triad [government, trade union, and employers] yesterday, offers workers 30 percent of the shares. This 30 percent is divided into other subsidiary ratios which determine the formula for workers to participate with their capital in the privatized enterprises.

Egypt

U.S. Envoy Albright Holds Talks With Leaders

Meets President Mubarak

NC0305111895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, in the Presidential Office this afternoon.

Calls Talks With Musa 'Constructive'

NC0305173195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa reiterated Egypt's firm view that the settlement measures taken by Israel in Jerusalem are illegal and are not only an obstacle to peace but also a very serious threat to peace.

In a statement he made today following his meeting with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright, Minister Musa said that the Israeli measures in Jerusalem will be discussed in detail at the extraordinary Arab League Council session to be held in Cairo on Saturday [6 May].

The foreign minister expressed hope that the United States will convince Israel that its measures in Jerusalem are illegal, noting that he discussed this issue with Mrs. Madeleine Albright at their meeting today. He added that their talks also dealt with the Egyptian and U.S. stands on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and that both stands remain the same. He said that they also discussed issues pertaining to the United Nations and the Security Council and some international political issues before the international organization.

On the U.S. stand toward Iran and whether this was discussed, Musa said that it was not, adding that Egypt heard the reports on the dispute from the press and that the situation must be studied from all angles.

The foreign minister said that the region is going through the peace process and this requires a calm atmosphere and support from everyone based on the principle of land for peace and based on security for all and no nuclear programs in the region, including the Israeli one.

Mrs. Albright described her talks with Musa as constructive and said that a number of bilateral issues were discussed. She praised Egypt's leading role in the region.

In her statement, she said that the NPT was discussed, stressing that her country is seeking globality for this treaty. She expressed hope that the time will come when the Middle East will become a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations went on to say that she also discussed with Musa President Bill Clinton's initiative on Iran. She said that the United States believes that Iran is an outlaw state which supports terrorism and this is unacceptable. She added that the talks also dealt with the U.S. stand toward Iraq and Egyptian-U.S. cooperation in the United Nations.

On the recent Israeli measures in Jerusalem, Madeleine Albright said that the United States believes this to be a difficult and complicated issue and that it is not appropriate to discuss it in the Security Council because there are, according to her, better ways for discussing it.

U.S. National Detained at Crime Conference

NC0405110895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian security agencies at the Ninth UN crime prevention congress have succeeded

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in detaining a U.S. national while trying to enter the conference hall with the identity card of a member of the official U.S. delegation to the congress.

The U.S. national has been turned over to the American Embassy through the UN security agencies. The UN security agencies at the congress thanked their Egyptian counterparts for their vigilance. It is worth noting that the identity card that the U.S. national used has the name of (Gralink), who is a member of the U.S. delegation and had obtained the identity card but did not attend the congress today.

U.S. Carrier Said Jamming Radio Communications

NC0205170395 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Layla 'Abd-al-Hamid]

[FBIS Translated Text] Responsible sources at the Civil Aviation Authority have revealed that the U.S. aircraft carrier stationed in the Red Sea continues to jam the radio communications of the Egyptian air controllers in the (Daspa) region, the air route used by the airliners heading toward Jeddah and Yemen, and also the (al-Jibal) region used by aircraft coming from Jeddah.

The U.S. aircraft carrier's jamming continues until after midnight. It causes an increase in the flying hours because the aircraft must change their course.

The head of the Egyptian air aviation sector has instructed radio communications officers in the civil aviation authority to stop dealing with Libyan aircraft and airports, including distress signals which might be sent by the aircraft carrying Libyan pilgrims.

Daily Mocks Rabin's Proposal on Golan Referendum

NC0405065695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR stresses that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to hold a referendum among the Jewish settlers on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is nothing more than a silly jest about an issue that requires a serious stance, a stance on which peace hinges. In a commentary today the paper says that expecting Syria to accept this proposal is stretching the imagination, because the result of any referendum in the Jewish settlements that have occupied the entire Golan Heights for over 25 years is known in advance. The paper calls on Rabin to reconsider the strange ideas he has persisted in promoting in proposing to achieve peace, something he asserts he desires. The paper points out that if Rabin's other ideas are the same he would do better to look for another way to spare himself and ourselves such hassle.

MB Official on Israeli Land Takeover, Iran Embargo

NC0305195595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 May 95

[Telephone interview with MB Spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, in Cairo, by Jihad al-'Idan, in Tehran, from the "News and Reports" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-'Idan] How does the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] in Egypt view the Judaization of holy Jerusalem, and what is the group's message to the Islamic nation regarding such fateful challenges?

[Al-Hudaybi] This latest move [Israel's expropriation of Arab land near Jerusalem] is a continuation of the Zionist aggression against Palestine and Muslim holy places. It provides decisive and firm evidence against anyone believing that the Zionist enemy may really want peace, respect any agreement, or seek to live peacefully in this part of the Muslim's land, which it usurped. This is part of an engraved, aggressive, and expansionist policy. We, faithful to our principles, tell all the Islamic countries that the Palestinian cause cannot be solved except as part of a common effort by the Islamic nation. The entire Islamic nation must unite. It must pursue a fair and free system and develop itself ideologically, intellectually, socially, economically, politically, and militarily so that it can have weight and face its enemies with the power needed to beat off their aggression.

[Al-'Idan] Mr. Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, how do you view the U.S. threats against Iran and Clinton's statements on a trade and economic blockade against Iran?

[Al-Hudaybi] Again, this is one of the ugly mistakes, and is obviously a dirty Zionist act. This is the first time in the history of the United States that a U.S. President has chaired a Zionist congress attended by an Israeli minister and has announced this war, which is unjust and has no basis, against an Islamic state that is doing nothing contrary to the principles of justice and international conventions. This is a flagrant, oppressive aggression and absolutely an unacceptable bias toward the enemies of Islam and the Islamic nation. [passage omitted]

Possible Expulsion of Workers in Libya Viewed

95LD0053B Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 24 Mar 95 p 18

[Unattributed article: "Egyptian Labor Attache in Tripoli: No Expulsion of Egyptian Workers in Libya Now"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One hundred thousand Egyptians in the Libyan Jamahiriyah were taken by surprise at the remarks of Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar Muntasir, who alluded to his government's intention to expel from the Jamahiriyah nearly 2.5 million foreign (Arab and non-Arab) workers without official work contracts. Because Egyptians make up 20 percent of the total

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work force, it would be the primary casualty of this decision if it were to be implemented. This is unlikely, however, according to the remarks of Egypt's labor attache in Libya, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Razzaq, who said in a statement from Tripoli to AL-MUSAWWAR's Hamdi Rizq that these were merely oft-repeated remarks that were not new, whose purpose was to create a sort of international pressure to ease the effects of the economic embargo of the Jamahiriyah. "This is the rhetoric of the Libyan authorities in this regard," he said, asserting that the decision had thus far not been implemented. He had no clarifications of it and was certain that no expulsions had taken place. "Otherwise," he said, "you would have felt it in Cairo. While the remarks that started this controversy may have specified only free, noncontract labor, they set no time period for expulsions."

He added that the volume of this category of Egyptian labor was 80,000, between smithing, painting, and technical work; in addition 20,000 contract workers with official contracts. They receive their salaries on a regular basis, except for new contracts, which suffer relatively from wage irregularity only because of administrative problems.

The labor attache said that the wage levels in Libya now are sharply down, to 200-250 dinars, only half of which (at the price of one dinar to $2.80) can be remitted, an amount which is not an inducement to work here, especially as the decline in the price of the dinar has led to price rises, to say nothing of the unemployment from which free workers are now suffering.

On another front, a report from the Foreign Representation Department in the Manpower Ministry confirmed the existence of 500,000 Egyptian workers in Libya, with Egyptian labor occupying the number-one spot among all foreign work forces, representing 14 percent of total manpower in the Jamahiriyah.

The report indicates that Egyptian manpower is encountering stiff competition from other nationalities, particularly in highly valued professions such as physicians and secondary medical jobs and members of university teaching faculties, to say nothing of other trades involving free labor.

After presenting this report, an official source in the ministry stated that Cairo had taken no measures on the subject of the expulsion of workers. He also said that a study on the effects of the decision was being prepared, especially as those who would be most hurt, were it to be implemented, would be the more than 400,000 Egyptian workers.

Article Views Challenges to Election System

95LD0047A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 25 Feb 95 pp 16-17, 78

[Article by Nabil Rashwan: "The Verdict in Favor of al-Hadidy Opens the Electoral Appeals File: Despite the Approaching End of the Assembly's Session, the Memberships of More Than Half the Representatives Are Under Appeal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Appeals Court's verdict awarding compensation of 100,000 Egyptian pounds (LE) to Dr. Helmy al-Hadidy in his complaint against the speaker of the People's Assembly and the Interior Minister opened up an entire file that now rests in the People's Assembly committees and the Court of Cassation's experts' commissions under the impressive title of "Electoral Appeals."

Although the Assembly will complete its current five-year legislative session in only three months, election appeals continue to flow into the legislative committee, contesting the membership of representatives who have been legislating and overseeing the government's performance for more than four years.

Appeals have been filed against more than half the current Assembly's members (458 members) so far, for a total of 268 appeals made by candidates in the 1990 elections to the Court of Cassation, which has been reviewing the appeals and viewing documents, papers, and public committee records throughout this time. The Court of Cassation is still reviewing 85 appeals against representatives who may very well leave the current Assembly when it ends next June before the appeals against them are resolved.

The Assembly's legislative committee has monitored the candidates's appeals; they total 268 appeals against the memberships of the Assembly's representatives. The appeals have been sent to the Court of Cassation for investigation, and the Court has accepted 45 appeals and returned them to the People's Assembly for a decision regarding the membership of the representatives mentioned in the appeals. The Court rejected 138 appeals and is still reviewing 85 appeals.

The appeal filed by Dr. Hamdy al-Sayyed, head of the physicians' association, against Badr al-Din Khitab, is considered one of the most well-known appeals accepted by the Assembly in its current legislative session. The committee also accepted the appeal of 'Abd al-Jaber 'Uthman against Mallawi representative 'Abd al-Shakkur Hamzah; however, the Assembly rejected the committee's report.

During the current legislative session, the legislative committee rejected 43 appeals against sitting representatives, under the chairmanship of Dr. Fawziyah 'Abd al-Sittar. This was despite the Court of Cassation's support for nullifying the elections. These appeals included prominent names among sitting representatives and committee chairmen. This opens the door wide for compensation suits to be filed by those making the appeals, based on the Court of Cassation's verdict.

The Appeals System

In accordance with the Interior Ministry regulation that governs the People's Assembly's activities, appeals submitted to the Assembly speaker must be recorded in the

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legislative and constitutional affairs committee, according to the Constitution's provisions. The Assembly speaker then is to turn them over to the head of the Court of Cassation within 15 days to be investigated by the Court. The appeal is to be accompanied by the supporting documentation that was submitted by the appellant, as well as the electoral documents pertaining to the member named in the appeal, if any were deposited with the Assembly. The Assembly speaker also is to turn over to the constitutional affairs committee the reports he receives from the Court of Cassation regarding the outcome of the investigation into the appeals within three days of their issuance so that the committee can review them in a meeting to be convened within a month from the time the outcome of the investigation was turned over to it. Upon investigating the validity of the membership, the committee must decide whether to summon the member named in the appeal and take measures deemed necessary to uncover the truth.

If the committee considers it necessary to investigate some aspects of the appeal before expressing its opinion to the Assembly, it prepares a report of its opinion for the Assembly specifying the matters that must be investigated in order to turn the matter over to the Court of Cassation to conduct its business regarding it.

In all circumstances, the committee must express an opinion on the appeal and submit its report to the Assembly after turning over the Court of Cassation's report regarding what was asked of it. The committee presents its report to the Assembly speaker on the investigation into the validity of the membership and the investigations that the Court of Cassation conducted into the appeal turned over to it within 60 days from the date the electoral documents or the outcome of the investigation were issued. The committee must end the investigation into the membership validity because of the link between it and one of the functions or because of the description quickly. [sentence as published]

If the committee's report contains the suggestion that the member's election be invalidated, it cannot be considered unless he is in attendance at the session. He may make a statement and defend himself and can speak as much as he wants. The speaker will announce the Assembly's decision to validate or invalidate the membership. The membership is not considered invalidated unless a two-thirds majority of the Assembly's members so decides.

Al-Hadidy's Appeal

Dr. Helmy al-Hadidy, candidate for the al-Zurqah-Damietta precinct, appealed the result of the November 1990 precinct elections to the People's Assembly, stating that there had been several flaws in the electoral process and that it had been corrupted by several infractions and an error in counting the votes. He indicated that the result that was announced about the most qualified individuals for the runoff was between two individuals, neither of them Dr. al-Hadidy; while, if the result had been calculated properly, the runoff would have been between al-Hadidy and another individual. The People's Assembly rejected the appeal because it was not in the proper legal format required by Article 20 of the People's Assembly Law. This stipulates that, to be accepted, an electoral appeal must fulfill three conditions. It must be submitted to the People's Assembly speaker within 15 days after the election result is announced; it must specify the foundations on which it is based, and the appellant's signature must be certified at the notary office. If any of these conditions is violated, the appeal's format is unacceptable and the matter will not be reviewed. In the aforementioned appeal, the appellant's signature had not been notarized, that is, it did not fulfill the format requirements.

Dr. al-Hadidy has pursued the case before the court for the last four years. The court determined in the first stage of reviewing the case that the Interior Ministry was responsible for the defects and breaches recorded by the Court of Cassation's report on the results of the investigation. It issued a verdict requiring the Interior Ministry to pay compensation to the appellant (Dr. al-Hadidy) of LE50,000. The two parties, Dr. al- Hadidy and the Interior Ministry, appealed to the Court of Appeals, which decided that the Interior Ministry and the People's Assembly were responsible, as the latter had been lax in submitting the Court of Cassation's report on the investigation outcome to the constitutional and legislative affairs committee. It also decided that the appeal petition's not being notarized should not result in rejection of the appeal in its entirety. The Court of Appeals awarded compensation of LE100,000.

This case opens the electoral appeals file with all it contains and raises a number of important questions. Is the Assembly the arbiter of its decisions? What are the legal and political boundaries for the Assembly with regard to the Court of Cassation's reports? Why does the Assembly frequently reject the Court of Cassation's reports asserting the invalidity of precinct elections with documents and proof? Can the Assembly make a mistake? Has the Constitution left this entire matter in the hands of two-thirds of the Assembly's representatives? Can they decide to retain a member when the Court of Cassation has stated that his election was invalid?!

The Assembly Is a Court

Dr. Ahmad Fathy Surur, Assembly speaker, believes that the Egyptian parliamentary system is a representative system and that the peoples' representatives are those who represent the people; i.e., that people make their decisions known through their elected representatives. The Assembly speaker explained that "there must be a distinction between the Court of Cassation's jurisdiction and that of the People's Assembly. The Court investigates and announces its opinion, but it does not issue a verdict. The decision is issued by the People's Assembly. We must remember the decision of the Supreme Court,

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which had jurisdiction over the Supreme Constitutional Court, under the presidency of the deceased Badawi Hammudah, that the People's Assembly is considered a court in deciding on appeals and that it has judicial jurisdiction in this regard; thus, the court here is the People's Assembly."

Dr. Surur said that as long as the Constitution has entrusted the Assembly with deciding on appeals and, based on the Constitution, the Assembly's composition is political, then it [the Constitution] accepts that among the member's standards in the appeal is the political standard. The Court of Cassation, when it expresses its opinion, is expressing it on the basis of a pure legal standard, and its composition is not legal and judicial. The composition of the court, that is, the People's Assembly, in the name of the Constitution, is political; thus, the standard is political.

Compensation From the Interior Ministry

The People's Assembly speaker explained that, with regard to the compensation that some receive, they receive it from the Interior Ministry, not from the People's Assembly, because a People's Assembly decision is a parliamentary decision that cannot be questioned before the courts by virtue of immunity and freedom of opinion. Rather, cases are filed against the Interior Ministry for its having been the cause of procedural errors. One might ask: If the Interior Ministry has been found guilty by the courts of committing procedural errors, how can a decision be made about the validity of the appeal? Dr. Surur explains that there is a difference between existence of a procedural error and the integrity of the voter's will. In the People's Assembly's view, based on the decision of the constitutional and legislative committee, an error could take place if all the subcommittee chairmen do not sign or it is proven that a number of voters are deceased. Then it might be proven that the remaining number is sufficient even if the deceased are subtracted or that the number of signatures by subcommittee chairman does not invalidate the elections as long as the chairman of the main committee has signed.

The People's Assembly speaker states that, if these kinds of legal procedures are violated, the Assembly, by virtue of its political composition, believes that they should not violate the voters' will. The courts have their legal standard, however, in holding the Interior Ministry responsible for this error. This does not affect the Assembly's decision.

The Constitution's Actions

For her part, Dr. Fawziyah 'Abd al-Sittar, chairman of the constitutional and legislative committee believes that having the appeals continue in this fashion throughout the legislative session does not provide the parliament with the necessary stability and does not give the representatives, especially those membership is under appeal, the feeling that they are able to perform their oversight and legislative roles. She notes that there are 85 appeals that the Court of Cassation still has not investigated even though the current five-year Assembly session is close to an end.

As for the People's Assembly's being bound by the Court of Cassation's report, Dr. Fawziyah said that Article 93 of the Constitution states that the Assembly has the authority to rule on membership validity, while the Court of Cassation has the authority to investigate the validity of the appeals submitted to the Assembly after they are turned over to it by the Assembly speaker. In addition, the appeal must be turned over to the Court of Cassation within 15 days from the date the Assembly learned of it, and the investigation must be completed within 90 days from the date it was turned over to the Court of Cassation; the outcome of the investigation and the Court's opinion must be submitted to the Assembly to rule on the appeal's validity within 60 days from the date the investigation's result was communicated to the Assembly. Membership is only considered invalidated when this decision is made by a two-thirds majority of the Assembly's members.

The chairwoman of the constitutional and legislative committee explained that the legislators give electoral appeals special importance, because they relate to the composition of the legislative authority itself. They have made the Court of Cassation an investigating authority, not a decision-making authority for electoral appeals. The People's Assembly alone has the authority to rule on the validity of these appeals in light of the investigation conducted by the Court of Cassation. Thus, the Assembly can differ with the Court of Cassation's report. The Court might consider that neglecting a certain procedure results in invalidating the election, while the Assembly might believe that neglecting this procedure does not result in invalidation, based on the fact that this procedure is not an essential procedure. The standard here is the popular will, as there is no invalidation if the will of the people has not been thwarted. Dr. Fawziyah gives a flagrant example, "The law specified that the chairmen of the main committee and the subcommittees must sign the vote-sorting record. This might include more than 100 individuals in a single precinct. If some subcommittee chairmen neglect to sign for one reason or another, is it reasonable that this small error should invalidate the electoral process with all the money and effort that has been spent on it, as well as the all the publications and electoral conferences? Of course not... because it is a nonessential procedure that did not subvert the will of the people."

Thus, in the legislative committee we are preparing a study of the Constitution's provisions in this regard, in accordance with the time periods it specifies. In Article 93, the Constitution provided that the Assembly is responsible for deciding the validity of its members' membership, and the Court of Cassation is responsible for investigating the validity of appeals submitted to the Assembly after they are turned over to it by the Assembly

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speaker. The appeal must be turned over to the Court of Cassation within 15 days of the date the Assembly became aware of it, and the investigation must be completed within 90 days of the date the appeal is turned over to the Court of Cassation. The outcome of the investigation and the Court's opinion must be submitted to the Assembly to rule on the appeal's validity within 60 days of the date the investigation's result was communicated to the Assembly. If we add up the time periods set by the Constitution, they come to approximately five and a half months, which is a time period that does not exceed the legislative session's first round. Thus, all the appeals could be investigated and membership validity ruled on during the first part of its life, which would provide parliamentary stability. This stability is not achieved by having appeals going on during the Assembly's entire life, over a period of five years, without the investigations into the validity of the memberships of all the members who have pending appeals being completed yet. [Box, p.17]

Why Was the Professional Associations' Law Passed? Dr. Ahmad Fathy Surur to al-Musawwar: The New Legislation Remedies Flaws That Have Appeared in the Professional Associations' Practices.

In an exclusive statement to al-Musawwar, Dr. Ahmad Fathy Surur, speaker of the People's Assembly, asserted that the Assembly has the responsibility to debate economic, social, and political problems within an economic context and to remedy them through legislation and oversight.

He added that "legislation by its nature is a product of society; its provisions express social and political problems, and legislation suitable for one country might not be suitable for another. For example, a professional's practice of his profession in France is not governed by professional associations, but by other agencies belonging to the ministries involved. The problems of forging association voter lists and altering member lists or of preventing association members from entering voting halls have not arisen there. Thus, there has been no reason to pass such legislation there.

If these things have occurred in Egypt, as has been proven through the Public Prosecutor's office's investigations, then such circumstances require the legislators to act in order to ensure the integrity of the association elections, affirm the members' will, and safeguard their rights. These incidents have also been proven through the decisions of the judicial commissions supervising the elections of some associations and statements by a number of association heads before the People's Assembly during consideration of Law 100 of 1993.

Out of this came the legislation, which did not give authority to government oversight or administrative agencies, but to judicial authorities due to their neutrality and independence. The legislation is a product of the circumstances that govern it. Only someone who fears exposure is afraid of legislation that gives oversight authority to the judiciary."

In response to al-Musawwar's question about why the judiciary's supervisory role, as provided for by the professional associations' law, is not extended to the People's Assembly and Shura Council general elections, Dr. Surur said, "The constitution provides for supervision by the judicial authorities over the associations' elections. The difference between the judiciary's supervision of People's Assembly elections and association elections is that the number of voters in the association elections usually does not exceed 300,000, in contrast to People's Assembly elections, in which the number of voters is in the millions. Thus, the difference in the chairmanship of the subcommittees is evident.

In addition, the ballot box committees that the associations' law stipulates are to be under the supervision of judicial commissions are much fewer in number than those of the People's Assembly elections, so that the chairmanship of the subcommittees of the ballot box committees goes to a member of the judicial authorities as much as possible.

However, the law specifies that the courts must supervise these committees under all circumstances. This is possible because general supervision does not require a large number of judges. It is a principle of law that the impossible cannot be required."

As for why judicial supervision of elections is not extended to labor unions, the People's Assembly speaker explained that "there is a big difference between the professional associations and the labor unions. The professional associations are considered to be individuals of public law, while the labor unions are considered individuals of private law.

This means that the professional associations receive authority from the state for their functions and, thus, their employees are considered public officials and their decisions are appealed before the State Council [Majlis al-Dawla], while the labor unions' decisions are appealed before the regular courts.

The professional associations overlap with the state in their jurisdiction, whether with regard to registration of professionals, rules of conduct and professional duties, or their discipline, which can result in preventing them from practicing their professions, as well as other prerogatives considered to be among the state's prerogatives.

Thus, the legislator must be confident of the integrity of these associations' composition and their competent administration to protect the rights of association members and as a check to the authority enjoyed by the association so that they do not violate the constitution and the law. For this reason, it was essential that the legislators reassure themselves about the integrity of the election of association council members, in view of the importance of the functions that the associations law is assigning.

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The matter is different in the labor unions, as a laborer's membership in the union is not a condition for working in a particular place nor does it affect his livelihood or limit his activities in his field of work. The labor unions are merely organizations to defend labor's interests against the state. Therefore, it is to be expected that there would be a difference in election procedures."

National Identity Card System Reviewed

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10 Feb 95 p 3

[Report by Ashraf Akram]

[FBIS Translated Text] Finally, the national identity card project has seen the light, after having been under consideration since 1982. The civil status department has prepared the first computerized national database. The department has entered 87 million birth records and 33 million death records, covering the period 1900 to 1994. It has also entered 12 million marriage records and three million divorce records, covering the period 1962 to 1994. Some 3,000 graduate males and females worked on this colossal project, which began in October 1991. The total cost of the project is expected to be 250 million pounds. This project would not have been started had it not been for the complete coordination between Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi and Dr. Atif Ubayd, minister of Public Business Sector and minister of state for Administrative Development. Besides protecting the citizen against forgery in civil status matters, the national project will achieve some discipline in economic, political, and social matters.

After a test period, a computerized tamper-proof identity card with a citizen's identification number will be issued sometime this year. The interior minister will issue a decree to begin issuing the card to the people gradually according to an organized plan.

The citizen's national identification number will be composed of 14 digits to meet civil status requirements. In view of the project's importance, a special law has been enacted. The regulations governing the implementation of this law were issued at the beginning of January 1995.

Details of the identity card project are contained in the following investigative report:

It has been proven that an identity card can easily be tampered with and forged. Forging identity cards is a serious problem, because it allows some foreigners unlawfully to acquire Egyptian citizenship. Criminal and terrorist groups forge the identity cards of some of their members by changing their photographs or altering the data in their cards to enable them to escape. Using a national identification number will prevent forgery.

The government considered the issue of national identification numbers between 1982 and 1990. It reconsidered the issue seriously in October 1991 and decided to implement it. This colossal project has been carried out because of the comprehensive coordination between Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi and Dr. Atif Ubayd, minister of state for Administrative Development.

Many questions still exist regarding the national identification number project. We went to see the official responsible for the implementation of this major project to learn more about it and find the answers to these questions.

Major General Ibrahim Busaylah, director of the civil status department, says, "I would like to point out that this colossal national project has some strategic objectives, which are summed up as follows: computerizing the civil status system in Egypt to provide accurate tamper-proof data about the Egyptian society by developing a comprehensive database on a citizen's civil status during his lifetime; providing individual, family, and statistical information to the various state sectors to help in planning, administrative, and security operations pertaining to social and economic development; and linking all the records of a citizen during his lifetime by adding a national identification number, thus providing complete data to every national sector, including education, health, manpower, social insurance, pensions, taxes, military, security (weapon and car licenses), banking, the real estate register, the commercial register, and supply."

According to the director of the civil status department, the national identification number is the basis for discipline in economic, democratic, and social affairs. It will make it possible to collect data on employment, unemployment, pensions, and tax evasion. It will also make it possible to create electoral lists.

Maj. Gen. Busaylah adds: "The project was accomplished, thanks to Interior Minister al-Alfi's immense interest and guidance throughout the planning and implementation process. The minister was convinced of the need to modernize the existing systems serving the police."

Maj. Gen. Busaylah outlined three stages for the implementation of the project. The first stage was to establish the first national database, in cooperation with the Council of Ministers' data and decisionmaking support center, by entering the records on births, deaths, marriages, and divorces into the computer. This was the most important procedure. We completed this stage after entering 87 million records of births and 33 million records of deaths, covering the period 1900 to 1994. We also entered about 12 million records of marriages and 3 million records of divorces, covering the period 1962 to 1994.

The second stage will be to link the members of the same family by establishing a complete data system.

The third stage will be to issue secure and tamper-proof civil status documents.

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What were the bases used in determining the new national identification number? Maj. Gen. Busaylah says: "With the approval of Interior Minister al-Alfi, we formed a high-level committee of experts in the field of civil status. The committee decided that the identification number would consist of 14 digits to meet the needs and requirements of all the parties concerned. The 14 digits would consist of the following:

From left to right, the first digit is the birth century—i.e., 1800-1899 takes digit 1 and 1900-1999 takes digit 2—in other words, one digit for every 100 years. This is followed by two digits for the birth year and two digits for the birth month—i.e., the identification number of a citizen whose date of birth is 6 July 1961 will be 2610706. Then two digits are added for the governorate in which the citizen was born. This is followed by four digits for the birth serial number as it appears in the register of births. Finally, we add a control or security digit."

He adds: "The national identification number of all the citizens in Egypt has been determined and entered into the department's computers. The four vital applicable facts in a citizen's civil status have been entered into a computer database with the help of 3,000 graduates. This took place following a training period conducted by veteran department specialists."

Maj. Gen. Busaylah says that in view of the extreme importance of the national identification number, a special civil status law has been enacted. Regulations governing the implementation of the law were issued at the beginning of January 1995. The new law provides for the use of a national identification number and for the automated and tamper-proof production of civil status documents.

What were the main provisions of this law? Maj. Gen. Busaylah says: "The law provides for the issuance of a national identification number for every citizen. This number will serve as the reference in all documents and in all transactions between a citizen and the state institutions. The law makes it mandatory for all citizens to report any changes in their status. This number is issued by the civil status department. The law stipulates that births and deaths must be reported. Names must be consistent with religious laws and public order. Personal names should be single and not compound. Two brothers of the same parents cannot use the same name. The law protects access to computerized databases. It provides for the issuance of identity cards for males and females when they reach the age of 16. This means that a female must be 16 to get an identity card. The law also stipulates that the identity card is personal and that no family identity cards will be available. This means that family cards are canceled."

What are the executive steps of the national number project? The director of the civil status department says: "With the approval of the interior minister, computer systems were purchased at the advice of specialized committees experience in this field. The records were entered into the computer."

Following a decision by the interior minister, a committee was formed to study and select the best offer made by international companies to buy technologically advanced systems. The committee consisted of university and national research center professors, specialists from the business sector, and experts from the data and the Council of Ministers' decisionmaking support center. The committee's task was to study and select systems that can meet the needs of Egyptian society and produce civil status documents automatically and securely and store them for the longest possible period.

When will the computerized and tamper-proof identity cards be issued? Maj. Gen. Busaylah says: "The first test card is expected to be issued during 1995. This will take place after the contract is signed and reviewed by the state council and the machines are imported and installed. After the machines are tested, we will put them into operation."

Regarding the budget allocated for this project, Maj. Gen. Busaylah says that Interior Minister al-Alfi has secured the necessary funds in cooperation with Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of Planning, and Dr. Atif Ubayd, minister of Public Business Sector and minister of state for Administrative Development and Environment Affairs. The total cost of the project, including structures, will be approximately 250 million pounds.

Maj. Gen. Busaylah says: We have built centers for the issuance of identity cards in Ismailia, al-Sharqiyah, al-Gharbiyah, and al-Buhayrah. We have also established a six-unit center in the civil status department in al-'Abbasiyah. We are currently building centers in Alexandria, al-Mansurah, al-Minya, Asyut, and Aswan. We expect work to be completed by July 1995.

The final form of the identity card will consist of the following elements: name, date of birth, place of residence, profession, race, religion, and issuing department.

Dear reader: This national project, which has cost millions of pounds, is for you and for protecting you against forgery and crime. It is a database for political, social, and economic discipline. The new system will speed up the issuance of identity cards, which used to be issued manually. Therefore, the new law makes it necessary for you to go to the nearest civil status department office to get your computerized and tamper-proof identity card when they start issuing them, because this is in your interest and the interest of your society.

Writer Views Bread Quality, Distribution

95LD0041D Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 10 Feb 95 pp 28-30

[Article by Muhammad Kishk: "The Problem of a Loaf of Bread"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Endless problems for a loaf of bread. For five loaves you have to stand in line in front of the bakery or sales outlet. When you get your order, you discover that the loaf either is misshapen or violates all standards. The weight keeps going down, and the shape keeps changing according to the whim of the bakery operator. Many bakeries use toxic (siyahat) salt, which is illegal. Nevertheless, the unfortunate consumer has no choice but the subsidized loaf, because not everyone can buy the bread sold on the sidewalks for 25 or 50 piasters a loaf.

Despite the constant surveillance of the country's 12,000 bakeries, violations continue. For a citizen to get a good loaf of bread for 5 piasters has become a dream.

The surveillance agencies say that a loaf of bread soon will regain its quality. However, bakery operators say the problem goes beyond decisions taken merely to make noise. They say that the problems of a loaf of bread are many and must be solved first.

In this report we observe the problem and try to learn firsthand the problems that consumers have with a loaf of bread.

The citizen Mahmud Sultan says that because most bakeries do not operate all the time, bread is unavailable in many places. Furthermore, out of each five loaves, we can use only two. The rest are useless because of poor quality—either underweight or undercooked.

Engineer Hasan Hamid adds: "Some bakery operators play tricks with the flour allotments issued to them and smuggle them to bakeries that produce French bread. Others make improved bread and distribute it to boys who then sell it on the sidewalks at high prices."

Dr. Isma'il al-Fiqi says that the bread distribution operation still is backward. More effort is needed to provide a clean and sanitary outlet that we can trust for the bread we eat. It is no longer acceptable, reasonable, or civilized for us to display bread on the sidewalks while we display shoes in stylish windows.

Ahmad Naji of Arab Contractors calls for increased around-the-clock surveillance of bakeries and surveillance of distribution, since most citizens, because of their economic circumstances, cannot buy the expensive improved bread.

The Problem, the Causes

Engineer 'Ala' al-Khawli, first undersecretary of the Ministry of Supply, sums up the causes of the bread problem in a number of points. Most important, bakeries are not well distributed over the country. He gives some examples of this. Cairo alone, he says, has 1,296 bakeries for native-style bread and 810 for French bread. The city needs about 50 million loaves a day. Bakery distribution needs to be reorganized because there are densely populated areas with only one or two bakeries. Other areas, relatively sparsely populated, have a large number of bakeries. The same thing happens in governorates like al-Qalyubiyah, al-Buhayrah, Alexandria, and Ismailia, where there are many bakeries in the cities but few in the villages. We are, therefore, in the process of preparing a consumption map of city and village needs, and on its basis we will redistribute the bakeries, giving new licenses only to areas that have real need.

The second reason for the bread crisis is flour smuggling. The amount of flour issued to the bakery is not used completely. Our intensified campaigns can eliminate this phenomenon. Suffice it to say that in the last three months these campaigns apprehended 3,215 cases of flour smuggling from different governorates. About 18 tons of flour have been seized, and the campaigns are continuing. As for the distribution problem, an earlier decree was issued by the minister of supply to separate production from distribution. This decision guarantees that the bakery will receive the full quantity of flour and that it will be distributed as finished bread. The quantity is under the supervision of the inspectors of supply. This will take place either inside the bakery itself or through special kiosks belonging to localities. This system has proven its success thus far.

'Ala' al-Khawli says that the bread problem has been one of the ministry's recent priorities. Since Dr. al-Juwayli took over the ministry, campaigns have been intensified in all governorates. A number of important meetings were held for all parties to the problem to listen to all views. The minister met with members of the Chamber of Bread Manufacturing and with the Association of Millers and discussed the milling industry and the flour market. The meetings produced good results. We discussed the elements of the problem with the main parties to the issue and listened to their views about a solution. We laid down a program to improve the loaf of bread and have actually begun to implement it. We took account of the demands of bakery operators. We have begun to intensify our contacts with the mills to modernize them while maintaining sack weight and adhering to flour specifications. There is a permanent high-level committee to discuss bakery problems, grant new permits, follow up bread improvement on a daily basis, and combat flour smuggling, the use of (siyahat) salt, and other phenomena that we are monitoring around the clock.

Campaigns Continue for Improvement

Major General 'Ali al-Hawwam, assistant minister of the interior and director of the General Administration of Supply Investigation, states that surveillance of bakeries has recently been strengthened for the purpose of producing bread that conforms to standards and legal weights and combating the sale of bread on the streets and in public squares. Mill surveillance has also been strengthened in order to produce flour that conforms to the legal extraction ratio. Samples of wheat and flour are drawn to determine their degree of conformance to specifications. Surveillance on governorate outlets has

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been tightened to prevent subsidized commodities from being transported to other governorates without a license.

Maj. Gen. al-Hawwam adds that the General Administration of Supply Investigation and its provincial branches have registered thousands of cases in the bakery and bread sector—2,114 cases as of this week. They include cases of flour smuggling, short weight, and violation of standards. There were a number of cases of bad food salt or (siyahat) salt, which some use in making bread. We have begun to get a grip on all these phenomena. We believe that a large number of bakery operators throughout the country are obviously committed and that the results of this commitment have begun to be reflected in the production of good bread.

Dr. Ahmad Shukri, an agricultural expert and vice president of the Suez Canal University, says that the Suez Canal University's college of agriculture has made a comprehensive study of the loaf of bread and ways to improve it. The college presented the study to Dr. Ahmad Juwayli when he was governor of Ismailia. Its recommendations included improving bakeries, reviewing subsidies, and distributing them fairly. There should be surveillance of distribution outlets, which should be separated from production. The study focused on the need to study the subsidized flour distribution process so that it becomes rational and so that any quantities smuggled outside the bakeries are confiscated. The bread production process must be improved to eliminate the phenomenon of sidewalk bread, which constitutes a market competing with subsidized bread. I emphasize the need to add some other nutritional elements to the loaf of bread, which constitutes the main food of Egyptians. Surveillance must be intensified over all stages of its production and distribution. There must be concern for protecting consumers. In order to protect them, cooperatives should be encouraged, and citizens must be educated. There are suggestions for improving the loaf of bread and for making it from corn mixed with soybeans, which are very beneficial and contain both protein and oil. I believe that the Agricultural Research Center has produced such a loaf. There are many other suggestions that could help make the loaf good and healthy.

Legislation Needed

The idea of separating production from distribution has been successful in al-Jizah. The result has been an abundance of bread and intensified surveillance over bakeries. This was stated by Kamal al-Mi'addawi, director of supply surveillance in al-Jizah. He indicated that legislation was needed against selling any kind of bread on the sidewalks.

Ahmad Rif'at Bakr, ministry undersecretary and director of supply in al-Jizah, says that al-Jizah governorate stopped experiencing any problem with bread after outlets became available and a number of public-sector committees belonging to the Greater Cairo Public Bakery Company were inaugurated. Attention was focused on areas without bakeries or far from existing bakeries. The ministry's apparatus in the governorate successfully converted some private-sector bakeries that were making Syrian-style pita to native-style bread production. This involved 37 bakeries and led to bread being available in all of the governorate's outlets. We hope to apply this experience in most governorates of the country, because cheap native-style bread is the popular demand of most citizens. This also helps prevent smuggling of luxury flour 76. The production of luxury flour should be limited to public-sector bakeries.

Kamal al-Mi'addawi states that al-Jizah as a governorate includes many villages. For a number of reasons, the phenomenon of buying subsidized bread to feed to livestock no longer takes place. First, the amount of bread produced just satisfies the needs of citizens. Bakeries are given limited sacks, and the quantity is received from the bakeries by number. We have yet to apprehend any case of violation in bread distribution or consumption. We have received no complaints about bread. Our continuing campaigns are almost eliminating the phenomenon of sidewalk bread.

Majdi Wahbah, director of supply for West Cairo, states that the continued campaigns have thus far been able to eliminate the bread problem, or, more precisely, the problem has begun to recede. The campaigns also have eliminated the phenomenon of flour diversion and smuggling. Through our campaigns we have discovered ingenious ways in which flour is smuggled from bakeries. By intensifying the campaigns in the future we shall be able to restore discipline in the bakery sector, so that citizens can obtain a good loaf of bread and so that the actual subsidy that the government pays reaches those entitled to it.

The head of the supply campaign in al-Buhayrah, 'Adil al-Muhandis, says that the bakery campaign operates day and night. It is not limited to the governorate, but extends to its villages. A daily schedule has been established for bakery visits by all supply inspectors. Some inspectors begin their work before dawn, and work sometimes continues until midnight. All this is so that subsidized flour is not diverted and so that a loaf up to standards is produced. 'Adil al-Muhandis notes the difficulties that supply inspectors face in their work and how some bakery operators harass them. He calls for increasing the penalty for bakery violations and a heavier penalty for smuggling subsidized bread.

Bakery Operators' Problems

Now that we have presented the scientists' and regulators' views of the bread problem, it remains to present the other side of the problem: the view of the bakery operators and sector workers who actually run the industry. Concerning these problems, Husayn Muhammad 'Ali, the operator of a bakery in Alexandria, says that bakery operators sometimes are badly

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maligned. Not all bakery operators are thieves or smugglers. If a few lack conscience, the great majority of bakery operators are honest; yet the supply ministry's campaigns do not distinguish between those who are honest and those who are notorious for their continued violations. Suppose a supply ministry campaign comes to a bakery and finds the loaves even 5 grams short in weight: the bakery operator is put into the paddy wagon, taken to the ministry or the police station like a criminal, and detained until he is turned over to the relevant prosecutor—all for 5 grams of short weight a loaf. Yet, when we receive flour sacks, each sack is short by 5 to 10 kilograms! The mills that supply us with these sacks and this flour belong to the government. So we ask the campaigns to consider the circumstances of the bakery operators.

Salim Hasan, a bakery operator in Suez, raises another issue, the bill for the cost of a loaf. This must be reviewed, particularly now that bakeries no longer operate on diesel oil, but on white kerosene. The cost has been kept the same from 1987 to the present despite a rise of at least 400 percent in the cost of raw materials used—prices of kerosene, workers, electricity. Prices for everything have gone up. This must be considered, and the cost of a loaf must be recalculated on a scientific basis.

Mahmud Abu-Zayd, who operates a bakery in al-Zaqaziq, calls for raising the weight of a loaf from 130 grams to the old weight of 160 grams. The 30-gram decrease in weight has led to the diameter and shape being different from what they are supposed to be. There is also the effect of weather factors that cause the loaf to dry out quickly due to its weight and diameter.

The Battle of Bread

Dr. Ahmad Juwayli, minister of supply and internal trade, states that we are now witnessing what one can call the battle of bread. We at the ministry are embarking on it with all our apparatus and resources. We have recently intensified surveillance of bakeries, mills, and distribution outlets. The ministry has studied the bread distribution map. This will mean the achievement of fair distribution.

We currently approve the building of only such new bakeries as are needed by residential areas and new neighborhoods. We are studying the geographical distribution of bakeries throughout the country so as to make a detailed map of them to clarify the extent of the need for new bakeries. We pay attention to the extent to which bakeries follow the required standards and apply sanitary rules. Suffice it to say that a city like Cairo has 1,296 native-style bread bakeries and 810 French bread bakeries. Cairo needs about 50 million loaves a day. This makes us think constantly about providing this quantity at good standards that satisfy everyone and that make government-given support really go to those who are entitled to it. Dealing with the loaf of bread now is taking place in a scientific manner.

Dr. al-Juwayli added that he is now discussing raising a loaf's nutritional value by adding high-value nutritional elements.

I discussed with Dr. Mahmud Sharif, minister of local administration, support for youth projects, especially the building of small mills. A small mill costs 6,000 pounds. This will soon be distributed as part of the youth projects with support from the Social Fund for Development. The importance of this project is that it contributes to overcoming the shortage in certain areas, particularly rural ones, which suffer from the absence of mills or from the age of the mills located there. There are now more than 3,000 small mills in rural areas, but they suffer from obsolescence and a shortage of trained workers.

Dr. Ahmad Juwayli says the following about the problems of bakery operators: I have listened attentively to their problems through my meeting with members of the countrywide general division of bakeries a few days ago. I formed a committee to look into problems and demands such as reviewing the cost of bread making, evaluating the experiments of separating production from distribution, computing bakery workers' insurance in return for working vacations and holidays, repairing mill washrooms that are inoperative or need repair, informing bakery operators of the prohibition on using adulterated coarse salt in dough processing because of its danger to health, delivering full-weight flour sacks by the mills, attention to moisture content, discussing the proposal to mix flours to improve color, stopping the use of 50-kilogram plastic bottles and using 100-kilogram bottles, reviewing criminal procedures so that bakery operators again manage them themselves and have a presence in them instead of a director who bears responsibility for administration, examining the current quotas for bakeries, halting the adversarial proceedings for opening a new bakery, and placing new bakery quotas outside the existing quotas.

Dr. Juwayli stated that there was full agreement between himself and bakery operators on the need to clean up their sector and expel intruders from it and on the need to improve bread manufacturing in Egypt.

Dr. al-Juwayli added: "We are against no one, and we do not apply the law arbitrarily. However, there is a minority that harms everyone, and it has to be amputated to straighten things out. I know of a bakery operator in one governorate who emerges from one court case to go into another one. Can I ignore people with such deficient consciences? As for the demands of honest bakery operators, I am completely on their side and stand beside them. I have in fact issued orders to the various surveillance authorities to take into account the demands of bakery operators and to stand with those who are honest."

Distribution Outlets To Remain

Regarding his decision to remove food security distribution kiosks from the streets of the capital, the governor of

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Cairo, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Akhir, stated that the decision did not include bread distribution kiosks. They will continue to operate as they do now, because the experiment of separating production from distribution has proven successful in all governorates, not only in Cairo.

The governor of Cairo added that improvements will be made to these kiosks so that they harmonize with the aesthetics of the capital.

Bakery Development Needed

Dr. al-Juwayli discussed another bread-related issue, that of improving the bakeries. He says that the bakery sector is on the threshold of a major leap. This will occur under the plan of the national project to develop private-sector bakeries. The European Common Market countries have contributed a grant of about 5 million pounds to promote bread manufacturing by converting the fuels used in bakeries from diesel and kerosene to natural gas. This step represents the practical beginning for improving and developing the loaf of bread. Using natural gas in bread making will cut production costs by about a third from the costs of bakeries that use kerosene or diesel as fuel. Also, making bread with these new fuels is healthier.

He added that the Supply Ministry's plan in the coming period is to expand the use of natural gas by means of 55 new bakeries in Cairo and Alexandria in the short term. Gas will be brought to over 400 bakeries by year's end. This means providing an improved loaf of bread healthy for citizens and guaranteeing them clean, good nutrition. Every citizen in Egypt will sense the truth of these words in coming months. We shall prove to everyone that we can solve the bread problem by serious work, constant surveillance, and continuing cooperation among all parties.

Libya

Joint Economic Session With Tunisia Opens in Tripoli

Delegates Urge Cooperation

LD0105143395 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of the Libyan Arab-Tunisian joint committee began in Tripoli this morning. The opening session was attended by the brother secretary of General People's Committee for Energy and by Brother Slaheddine M'Barek, the Tunisian minister of trade, his accompanying delegation, and a number of experts and technocrats.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Energy made a statement on the occasion. He welcomed Brother M'Barek and his accompanying delegation and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to review and follow-up the implementation of the agreements for closer cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Brother Slaheddine M'Barek, the Tunisian trade minister, also made a statement. He expressed his personal happiness and that of his accompanying delegation at being in the Great Jamahariyah and pointed out that the meeting aimed at boosting closer cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the interest of the Arab people in both countries.

At the end of the opening session, three technical committees were set up: an economic committee, a committee of human resources, and a committee of infrastructure. These are follow-up committees which will review the decisions made at the eighth meeting of the [joint] committee and prepare for the next one.

More Economic Exchanges Urged

LD0305133795 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The minutes of the Libyan Arab-Tunisian preparatory committee's meeting to prepare for the 9th session of the higher follow up committee were signed this morning in Tripoli.

The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Energy ['Abdallah Salim al-Badri], and brother Slaheddine M'Barek, Tunisian trade minister.

The minutes included emphasis on increasing cooperation in economic spheres, promoting trade exchanges, strengthening the flow of commodities, and stimulating movement between the two fraternal countries, and also stressed increasing cooperation in the spheres of customs, movement, residence, work, possession, communications, transport, and industry.

The minutes also included emphasis increasing cooperation in the sphere of unionist projects between the two countries for the benefit of the common interest of the sons of the one people, particularly an electricity linkage project and oil products pipeline projects.

The minutes also stressed achieving integration between the two countries on the road of building the Arab Maghreb Union to achieve the comprehensive Arab unity.

Editor Hails Hajj Flights Despite 'Harassment'

LD0105152995 Tripoli JANA in English 1447 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli/May 1/JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY—JANA's political editor hailed the mounting repercussions of the brave resolution taken and implemented by the Libyan-Arab people to fly directly to hajj from airports in the great Jamahariyah to the holy land.

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He said that the leadership of the Islamic popular leadership has received during the past two weeks a flood of cables and messages from large numbers of institutions, organisations, associations, centres and parties from every continent with a total membership of around 10 million all of them who have pledged to satisfy the call of duty after receiving the orders from the international Islamic popular leadership to convert in droves and in individuals to Libya and take off from there directly to hajj by air at their own expense.

The editor emphasised the thankfulness of the Libyan-Arab people for the brotherly support which proved on the land of reality that the nations of the world and member states of the General Assembly do support the Libyan-Arab people in their daring confrontation of the policies of domination, terror, arrogance, harassement and extortion which is applied by a handful of allies against those who do not agree with them.

He revealed the tyrants do not read history and do not extract lessons despite the collapse of the empires of evil and tyranny which are known to humanity and are still an example the conclusions of which are known to everybody. He confirmed that what emerges on the surface in the way of the solidness of the American empire conceals corruption and failure without limits from the inside which will be like the termites which eat the inside of the unharmonised social mosaic and fabric.

The editor said the civilisational projects which are proposed by Libya to the Arabs of the region are international in addition to the oil wealth and other wealth it enjoys and its control of around 2,000 kms of the mediterranean coast and its possession of the completely free will due to the credit of the revolution. These are the reasons for American and Western hatred, which also qualifies the great Jamahariyah to read the international front of smaller nations to build a new world, the dictionary of which is free of the terms of terror and injustice.

Sudan

Eritrean President Said To Back Alliance Forces

EA0105204595 Khartoum SUNA in English 1706 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [No dateline as received]—Eritrea's President Issaias Afeworke has asserted his personal commitment to back the so-called Sudan Alliance Forces led by 'Abd-al Aziz Khalid. Reliable sources said it added that, Afeworke asked the leaders of the said alliance to work for attracting some political and [word indistinct] personalities to enable him raise its demand during meeting with the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] states leaders.

The sources noted that the Eritrean regime is paying due concern to the alliance as availing them of some sites in Eritrea for its Army training as Sudan opposition. It went on to say that members of the said alliance's arrival to Eritrean territories came through the Eritrea consulate at one of the Arab countries which [word indistinct] offers support of to the alliance by its secular forces and intelligence. Press reports disclosed that differences were clearly obvious between the members of so-called alliance regarding the financial assistance by certain Arab countries.

Meantime, 60 American military experts on rockets and explosives arrived in Uganda within the context of anti-Sudan plan woven by Washington more allies Sudan opposition. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni told military and civil leaders that United States fully backing his regime, saying priority is given to topple the fundamentalist regime in Sudan, London-based AL-SUDAN newspaper said as quoting. Since Museveni is facing internal pressure, the armed rebels in northern Uganda and even in the south, he go ahead with supporting Garang to maintain safety of his regime, political analysts said. The outlaws movement receives two or three planes a week from Israel loaded with ammunition and weapons via Cyprus.

Government Notifies OAU of Ugandan Actions

EA0205195395 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 2 May (SUNA)—Sudan has officially notified the OAU about the Ugandan Government's actions against Sudan's diplomatic mission in Kampala. Sudan's ambassador in Addis Ababa, Retired Major General 'Uthman al-Sayyid, delivered a note from the foreign minister, Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, to the organization's secretary general, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, on 30 April.

Ambassador 'Uthman said the note dwelled on Uganda's actions against the Sudanese diplomatic mission, and the unsatisfactory reasons given for the severing of relations between the two countries. He said Sudan could have reacted in the same way, but has refrained because the principles on which its foreign policy is founded precludes it from doing so. He said: We want good relations with all neighbors, and we will always be committed to the policy of good neighborliness.

Meanwhile, Ugandan security forces and their intelligence officers have continued to harass all Islamic organizations in Uganda, particularly those being run by Sudanese personalities. The security forces, and a number of investigators from the Ministry of Internal Security (?questioned) the director of the Islamic Call Organization in Kampala, and asked him during the investigation to provide them with a list detailing the organization's activities in Uganda. They also questioned him on those to whom the organization is giving humanitarian assistance, and some other information regarding the beginning of the organization's activities in Uganda. He was also asked to [word indistinct] the names of the orphans who the organization assists, and their residences.

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Official Views Libyan Efforts, Border

EA0205212195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, the first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, has stressed that Sudan is particularly keen on the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] initiative as an African initiative, in spite of the difficulties facing it, and the hostile attitude adopted by both Eritrea and Uganda toward Sudan. [sentence as heard] Speaking at the Foreign Ministry's regular media forum this morning, his excellency said the IGADD initiative is an important mechanism, which, he hopes, will help resolve the problem of southern Sudan.

His excellency affirmed Sudan's keenness to cooperate with Libya's initiative on Sudanese-Ugandan relations. He expressed the hope that Uganda will come to realize the magnitude of its affront to Sudan's rights.

Regarding the Ugandan defense minister's statement on the closing the border with Sudan, the first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry said the decision will not improve or impede bilateral relations. His excellency noted that the closure of the border will restrict the flow of arms through Uganda to the rebel movement.

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Kuwait

Al-Sabah on Israel Boycott, 'Hostile States'

MM0205151595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 May 95 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah by Samir 'Atallah in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I said to Shaykh Sabah that there has been renewed talk about ending the Arab boycott of Israel. What is the truth? The Kuwaiti foreign minister replied: "Let me explain a few things and leave no room for confusion. The Arab boycott of Israel is neither a Kuwaiti boycott nor a Gulf boycott. It is an Arab boycott approved by the [Arab] League, and it is up to the League to lift it or keep it, no more no less. As for us, the state of Kuwait, after the occupation and the liberation we lifted the second- and third-degree boycott.

"We did that because of a national need, and I repeat the word national. We ended the boycott of some American and Japanese companies which were on the blacklist. We did not lift the boycott of Israel, nor did we seek cooperation with its companies. We just sought to meet our domestic national needs because of what we suffered during the occupation. That is all. We should, of course, bear in mind that some Arab states lifted the boycott a long time ago...."

The spontaneous question came up: What about the hostile [Arab] states [duwal al-Didd]?

I remember his reaction a year ago, but I did not have to wait long for his reaction now: "Oh, how I wish that word hostile would disappear, how we wish it had never found its way into the Arabic political vocabulary, but the Kuwaiti people had a historic shock seeing what they saw after the occupation. We accuse not peoples but governments, of course. Kuwait had no enemies or adversaries in the Arab world, but after the occupation we woke up to see some governments treating us as if we were the aggressors not the victims, and they still do. We want to restore Kuwait's relations to what they were before the occupation, but the decision on that is not up to us but up to the others. All we want is for the leaders of these states to call on Iraq to implement the Security Council resolutions, no more and no less. That is what Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania did. Restoration of normal relations does not depend only on us.

"At any rate, we have embassies in Yemen, Jordan, and Sudan. There is air traffic with these countries. It is solely up to them to revive the atmosphere of trust. We have taken all the steps we are supposed to take in this case." [passage omitted]

I said to Shaykh Sabah: Your image in the Arab world is that of a man who only does diplomatic work even though you spent all these years doing internal work too. Just today a politician here was saying that the state was shelving a plan for the dissolution of parliament. Is that likely?

Shaykh Sabah said: "The only likelihood is elections next year. We are people who quarrel under the dome of parliament and embrace in the interval. The approaching date of the elections raises the temperature of some statements. So be it, so be it."

Assembly on Corruption Inquiry at Defense Ministry

LD0205183295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1554 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 2 May—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said today that the government would not hesitate to punish anyone whose meddling with public money was proven. Meanwhile, he stressed that the Kuwaiti military institution enjoyed everyone's respect.

This was said during a session of the National Assembly chaired by Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun. A number of issues on the agenda were discussed, including the final report of an inquiry commission set up by the fact-finding commission concerning improprieties attributed to the Defense Ministry.

Shaykh Sabah said that the military institution was our institution, and we have every respect for it. He stressed: Whoever is proven to have attempted to mar the military institution will be made to account for this and will be referred to a military court.

Shaykh Sabah said that the government was setting up a committee to investigate the commission's report. He asked the Assembly to postpone its debate of the issue and to give the government two months to complete its investigation.

Shaykh Sabah made a pledge that results that would satisfy the government and the Assembly would be achieved within two months.

Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud also stressed that: The government will stand with the Assembly against anyone who meddles with public money.

Shaykh Ahmad expressed dismay at the leaking and publication of the report in newspapers. He pointed out that the report included names of people who could be innocent.

The Assembly accepted a proposal submitted by some members to postpone the debate on the commission's report for 45 days, providing the Defense Ministry replied to the commission's questions within 15 days.

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Qatar

Paper Warns U.S. on 'Beating War Drums' Over Iran

NC0305115595 Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, May 3 (AFP)—Washington's threats against Tehran pose a danger to the stability of the whole Gulf region, the Qatari daily AL-'ARAB said Wednesday [3 May].

A trade and investment embargo on Iran announced by US President Bill Clinton on Sunday has created tension in the region, the paper said, calling on Washington to stop "beating the war drums."

"A build-up of tension will bring new crises in the Gulf and will threaten the security and stability of the region and damage the world economy," it said.

"American interests and objectives must not be achieved to the detriment of the region's security."

The United States accuses Iran of backing terrorism and trying to procure nuclear weapons, which Tehran strongly denies.

Amir Sends Letter to Clinton on Cooperation

JN2904145195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1240 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 29 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has sent a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton in reply to the one he received from President Clinton in February, which was delivered by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown.

The Qatari News Agency reported that in his letter, which was sent via diplomatic channels, the amir of Qatar welcomed President Clinton's desire to increase trade and investment cooperation between the State of Qatar and the United States. His highness also stressed that boosting cooperation between the two countries is vital and that the two countries seek to achieve this to serve their common interests. He added that the State of Qatar hopes that trade and economic cooperation with the United States, especially in the field of energy, will see major progress, especially since Qatar has endorsed an agreement to establish the World Trade Organization.

The amir of Qatar further asserted in his letter that the State of Qatar supports peace efforts in the Middle East. He hoped that Israel will work to achieve tangible progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and will take practical steps to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in order to achieve security and stability for all the peoples of the region.

Amir Confers With PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas on Peace

JN0205171295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 2 May (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani today received PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, who is currently visiting Doha.

The Qatari News Agency said that they reviewed the Middle East peace process, negotiations on the Palestinian track to implement the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli peace accord, obstacles hampering negotiations and the peace process, and Israel's continued confiscation of Palestinian territories in East Jerusalem and the West bank to build more settlements in conflict with UN resolutions, international charters, the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, and the spirit of the peace process.

Talks also dealt with the situation in Gaza and Jericho under the Palestinian National Authority and efforts to achieve accord among the Palestinian factions and to attain the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. The two sides also discussed the need for the sponsors of the peace process, as well as the international community represented by the Security Council, to shoulder their responsibilities; confront Israel's intransigence, its violations, and its confiscation of territories in East Jerusalem and the West Bank; and enhance the march of comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia

Military Committee With Yemen Sets New Round of Talks

LD0305162895 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The joint Saudi-Yemeni military committee held its third round of talks in Riyadh between 2-4 Dhi al-Hijjah 1415 A.H., corresponding to 1-3 May 1995.

Intensive and constructive talks took place during this round and resulted in the signing of joint minutes in which the two sides agreed to initiate practical steps to execute the tasks of the joint committee.

The talks during this round took place in a fraternal atmosphere in which a spirit of cordiality and reconciliation prevailed. The two sides agreed to continue the fourth round of talks in Sanaa.

On the other hand, the delegation of the Yemeni military committee under the leadership of Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, chief of the Yemeni general staff, left Riyadh this afternoon. [passage omitted]

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New Steps Taken To Avoid Clashes

NC0305153595 Paris AFP in English 1447 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, May 3 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia and Yemen have agreed to set up joint military groups in a bid to prevent new clashes along the two countries' disputed border, the Yemeni army's chief of staff said Wednesday [3 May].

The three subcommittees will be tasked with "following the situation along the border and making proposals to reduce" the number of troops there, General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah told AFP after three days of negotiations in Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia and Yemen have agreed to only deploy "the units needed to stop smuggling or sabotage, dismantle the current military fortifications and prevent the creation of new ones," he said.

There was no information on how many soldiers were deployed on each side of the border, where several armed clashes broke out in December and January.

The chief of staff and his Saudi counterpart, General Muhammad Salah al-Hammad, preside over a military committee set up under a declaration of principles aimed at settling the 60-year-old dispute which was reached on February 26 in the holy city of Mecca.

The committee is scheduled to meet next in Sanaa, he said without giving a date. "There are still minor differences that need more debate."

The Mecca accord also called for setting up several joint committees to demarcate the border and help normalize relations between the two countries that had deteriorated during the 1991 Gulf war.

The dispute centers on the provinces of 'Asir, Najran and Jizan, which have been under Saudi control since the 1934 Taif accord.

Libyan, Iranian Hajj Leaders Meet in Mecca

LD0305214995 Tehran IRNA in English 2037 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Holy Mecca, May 3, IRNA—Head of Libyan hajj pilgrims, Saad Majbar said here on Tuesday [2 May] that various conspiracies hatched by the U.S. against Muslims and other freedom-loving people proved that the U.S. is the symbol of state terrorism.

In a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Reyshahri, he asked Reyshahri to convey the warm greetings of the leader and people of Libya to the leader of the Islamic revolution and the Iranian people.

Libyan official said Libya has been subjected to U.S. economic sanctions for the past three years, but, it failed to force the Libyan people to back down on their principles.

Referring to the pressure being exerted by the U.S. on Iran, he said that little knowing that a nation which relies solely on God will never make a compromise, the enemies of Iran and Libya were trying to push both the Iranian and Libyan nations towards compromise through economic pressure.

Saad Majbar said that U.S. pressure on Iran and Libya would not work.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri lauded the bravery of the Libyan people in the face of the U.S. and said that the policy of resistance to global arrogance will lead any nation to victory.

He said, "as you stated the U.S. is the symbol of state terrorism, the United States attacked Iranian passenger plane in 1988 killing all passengers and crew on board and for this reason it as likely for the U.S. to attack the aircraft carrying Libyan pilgrims (to Saudi Arabia)."

Yemen

Chief of Staff 'Optimistic' on Saudi Talks

MM0305142395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 May 95 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, chief of staff of the Yemeni Armed Forces and head of the Yemeni side in the Yemeni-Saudi Higher Joint Military Committee, by Hasin al-Bunyan in Riyadh; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Bunyan] What is the atmosphere at the talks?

['Ulaywah] We are making progress. We now have a modus operandi.

[Al-Bunyan] What does it consist of?

['Ulaywah] We have agreed to identify the existing difficulties and have defined the mechanism for our work.

[Al-Bunyan] What is that mechanism?

['Ulaywah] We have agreed to form three field committees. We will form other committees if necessary.

[Al-Bunyan] What is the task of these committees?

['Ulaywah] Their job is to identify the issues and make proposals and present ideas. After reviewing our tasks in detail in the light of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two countries (on 28 Ramadan) [27 February], we concluded that we would always need field committees to work with us and help us present views and ideas we are basically in agreement on. We are committed to the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on refraining from taking any new military measures, eliminating measures which caused and cause tension, and endeavoring to contain or reduce the military units on the border between the two countries

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over and above what is necessary for cooperation in the fight against sabotage and smuggling. We are all in agreement on the aims but we are trying to reach agreement on the mechanisms and frameworks for the fulfillment of all or some of these aims. We are still holding discussions and exchanging views on that.

[Al-Bunyan] What are these agreed objectives?

['Ulaywah] Our aim is to implement Article 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding to ensure prevention of any new military or other measures or movements on the borders between the two countries. We are discussing the implementation mechanism. There are some views and ideas on that.

[Al-Bunyan] When will the field subcommittees start their work?

['Ulaywah] They will start their work as soon as we sign the minutes of the third session, which is expected to be concluded today. I believe that what will be accomplished today will be a practical positive step toward reactivation of the committees and the start of work.

[Al-Bunyan] It has been claimed that there have been differences of opinion at the meetings. How could they be overcome?

['Ulaywah] Yes, there is disagreement on the proposed mechanism for each topic but both sides are interested in finding a solution and are determined to do so. We will hold further debates and discussions on the points of disagreement, which are minor, in our search for an adequate mechanism and executive procedural methods. I assure you that there are identical views and there is eagerness. The views on the risks and objectives are specific and identical too, except on the implementation mechanism and the order of priorities as to the positions and points from which we should start implementation. We are in agreement that more discussions and exchange of views will enable us to find a viable mechanism, and if we managed to find several mechanisms we could apply them all at the same time or find a suitable mechanism for each topic. We are optimistic about ironing out these minor differences of opinion.

Source Condemns Israeli Taking of Palestinian Lands

JN0405073995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source has voiced the Republic of Yemen's condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli occupation authorities' incessant violations of Arab rights and their recent confiscation of new Arab lands in the city of Jerusalem in Palestine to build settlements.

The source stated that this decision represents an unacceptable barbaric piracy and a gross violation of Arab rights and all international charters and norms. It added that the decision embodies the Israelis' aggressive and expansionist policy and undermines all efforts being exerted to create stability and peace in the region.

It added: The Republic of Yemen renews its principled support for the Palestinian brethren, as well as Syria and Lebanon, to restore their legitimate Arab rights. At the same time, it calls on the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to shoulder its full responsibility toward these serious Israeli violations, which negatively reflect on the course of the peace process in the region, and to apply strong pressure on the Israeli occupation authorities to immediately halt the confiscation of Palestinian lands, abandon the policy of usurpation and expansion at the expense of Arab rights, and to adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The statement called on the upcoming Arab League Council emergency meeting to produce positive results that will enhance the Arab confrontation of the Israeli defiance of the Arab nation, usher in a new era of joint Arab action, and realize Arab consensus on pan-Arab causes.

The statement noted that Israel has taken advantage of the state of illusion that has afflicted the Arab nation and the negative repercussions of the Gulf crisis on inter-Arab relations and Arab solidarity. It added that brethren Arabs should rise above their differences and work for shaping a unified and strong Arab stance that will overcome the current Arab state of affairs and confront the Israeli expansionist ambitions in a manner that will secure the attainment of a just and durable peace in the region.

Prime Minister Confers With World Bank Official

JN0405100995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani received (Ulter Sood), the World Bank's regional director of the Middle East and North Africa, and the delegation accompanying him.

The two sides reviewed aspects of cooperation between our country and the World Bank. They also discussed the preliminary steps the government has taken as part of the first stage of the economic reform plan. In this regard, the World Bank official stressed the World Bank's support for the economic reform plan and the measures taken to upgrade and revitalize the Yemeni economy and to put it on the right track to promote development.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Mazhar al-Sa'idi, deputy minister of planning and development, and Dr. 'Uthman Shaykh Ahmad, the World Bank resident representative in Sanaa.

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Congress Denies Receiving CIA, Foreign Money

MM0405085595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 May 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi National Congress Denies Receiving Money From Any State"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington, London, AL-HAYAH, REUTER—The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has stressed in secret testimony that, if the international embargo imposed on Iraq continues, President Saddam Husayn will begin to lose his grip on power within six to eight months. [passage omitted]

The Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], which is opposed to Saddam, has denied receiving money from the CIA. And it requested THE NEW YORK TIMES, which said on 11 April that the agency asked Congress to allocate money to support parties in the Iraqi opposition and the UINC, to "document" its accusations.

A statement issued by the UINC Executive Council, a copy of which AL-HAYAH received yesterday, said that the council "categorically denies that the congress received any money from any U.S. quarter or any foreign or Arab government."

The statement pointed out that the Executive Council "has decided to request the U.S. newspaper to document these slanders by naming the quarters and figures receiving these alleged sums." [passage omitted]

UN Informed of U.S. 'Plotting'

JN0405063295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1821 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 3 May (INA)—Iraq has officially informed the UN Security Council of its strong condemnation of the U.S. Administration's continued plotting against its stability and internal security.

In a letter to Jean-Bernard Merimee, president of the UN Security Council, delivered by the Iraqi UN mission today, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf referred to a report in the 12 April issue of THE NEW YORK TIMES that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, has asked the U.S. Congress to earmark $15 million to finance operations against Iraq and recruit agents for these operations from outside Iraq.

The foreign minister's message added that such information comes within the context of an anti-Iraqi U.S. policy adopted during the era of former President Bush and current President Clinton in a desperate attempt to destabilize Iraq and insistently interfere in its domestic affairs.

He said that such a policy conflicts with the Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 687, which called for respecting Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence. It also contravenes the provisions of the UN Charter and international law.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf warned that the adoption of such a policy by a permanent Security Council member state, contrary to the special responsibility it bears toward world peace and security, will only further undermine regional peace and security.

Concluding, the foreign minister said: Iraq strongly condemns the U.S. policy against it, and lodges this information with the United Nations.

Paper on Clinton Embargo Decision on Iran

JN0405103795 Baghdad INA in English 0900 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, May 4 (INA)—President Bill Clinton's decision to sever all trade and investment ties with Iran has come to reinforce a basic and standing feature of the U.S. diplomacy, it is self-interests that define the U.S. future relations with any state no matter how good present ties are, the English language daily THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said.

In its editorial it added, at first glance, the decision seems to have jettisoned so much of American interests in this oil-rich country including the much coveted oil investments by giant American companies and jeopardized U.S. oil supplies from Iran.

But it would not take much to discover that Washington took this decision only after it has established a firm stronghold in other places, so near, where it can get almost all that it is likely to lose in Iran.

With Iraq kept out of the oil market, Saudi Arabia has already opened the floodgates of oil exports pumping an all-time record that renders marginal Iran's potential role in the oil market.

At least, Iran, the once throbbing heart of American regional interests is left alone in the political wilderness of the new world order. Washington cannot afford to argue that Iran ceased to be the trust worthy ally after 1979 political change. In fact, Washington began to lose interest in Iran during the Shah's era and it was the U.S. that facilitated this change in Iran when it abandoned its once die-hard ally, the Shah, who so suddenly found himself an international pariah.

Yesterday Iraq, today Iran, who tomorrow? It would not need much guesswork to conclude that for Washington, today's friends are tomorrow's foes, all depending on the burly of today's politics. The latest American move should have sounded the alarm inside the heads of those who still speak of American friends. In no way can any of them be now as close to Washington as the Shah was until shortly before February 1979. It would be then sheer political lunacy to put all one's eggs in the White House basket.

Judging by the conduct of the U.S. diplomacy over the last few years, precisely since the collapse of the Communist empire, no present U.S. ally can lull himself into a real sense of security as to the future relation with

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Washington. It would be self-deceit as things can change so easily. Any state can be left out in the cold on trumped up charges, terrorism, mass destruction weapons, human rights and the list can be very long.

One may wonder whether or not Clinton's announcement of the anti-Tehran move has taken aback people like Oliver North or Khashoggi. Over eight years of war with Iraq, the U.S. was never one of Iran's worries as far as arms supplies and logistic support were concerned. Secret deals which George Bush had no scruples about were struck and arms continued pouring into Iran.

Why then this economic and trade embargo? Washington must have found the alternative in the Arabian deserts where oil is at least now abundant and markets are open for unneeded arms deals. However, there will come a time when the Arabian Peninsula lurches back to oilless desert, the coffers of oil lords go empty and American interests perch elsewhere in the world. Those who now brag iron- clad American support might experience something worse than that of the Shah. When oil is no longer there, and arms deals cannot be paid, oil kings and lords would have no one to look them in the face. Saudi desert would perhaps be offered as the world's best site to dump U.S. nuclear waste.

Commentary: Albright Aiming To Divide Arabs

JN0305155995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 3 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—The evil and concealed objectives of the tours which Madeleine Albright, U.S. envoy to the United Nations, is making to certain Arab states are now clear. These tours aim at driving a wedge among the Arab states, creating a state of war and division among them, and isolating Iraq, the jewel in the crown of the Arabs and the symbol of their dignity and pride.

Everyone is aware of the U.S. Administration's objectives in the region and the world: To entrench its hegemony and plunder oil and non-oil wealth through the so-called "new world order." In this respect, everyone knows what this administration did to the Soviet Union and other countries and the state of war and division it pushed them into. What the U.S. Administration has done to Iraq and Libya also falls within this context. The U.S. Administration is also expected to do the same thing with other Arab states, including those who yield to its aggressive policy.

The feverish U.S. policy has been designed for that purposes. It aims also to milk both the rich and the not very rich Arab states. A recent example of this, which comes to the mind of every Arab citizen, can be seen in the various means and ways used to milk the Gulf amirs, either by making them purchase advanced weapons or by fabricating problems among the Arab states to keep them in a state of alert and in fear, and susceptible to suspect U.S. ideas.

Since this administration has failed to subjugate Iraq and make it yield to its policy, as it did with other countries, it began to devise other means to help it achieve its objectives. It recently fabricated the ill-omened resolution 986 to plunder Iraq's wealth and to entrench its division by financing the agents in northern Iraq.

Albright's suspect tours can be understood within this context. These tours confirm the hostile U.S. attitude toward Iraq. Iraq has rejected the U.S. policy that is hostile to the Arab nation, the negative aspects dominating relations among Arab states, and the big gap in the common understanding of the nation's crucial issues. The Arabs, therefore, have no option but to strongly confront this evil policy and to refuse to submit to Albright's gimmicks, exposed hostility, and suspect intentions.

Regardless of the plans and evil schemes it hatches against the Arabs and Iraq, the United States' policy is exposed and will fail in the face of the will and determination of the Iraqi people, who have a deep-rooted history and culture. The embargo, which the Clinton administration is imposing, will erode sooner or later because the economic and cultural weight of Iraq cannot be overlooked, and because economic ties among states dictate that deals must be made with Iraq.

Kurds Said To Attack Regime's Forces

NC0305173495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Iraqi regime's forces deployed on the combat lines in the liberated areas of Kurdistan resumed their fierce attacks on the liberated villages. The attacks caused acute damage to the farms and houses there.

In retaliation for the 'Aflaqite forces' atrocities and threats, a hero force of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's peshmerga last night launched a lightening attack on the regime's bloody forces massed in the Qadir Karam area in Karkuk. The peshmerga force seized military hardware and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy's forces. [passage omitted] The outcome of the heroic operation carried out by the peshmerga force is as follows:

1. Eight enemy personnel were killed;

2. Six enemy soldiers were captured. [passage omitted]

3. A military vehicle was destroyed; and

4. Seven Kalashnikov rifles and a quantity of mortar rounds were seized;

Blessed are the fists of our hero peshmerga fighters who taught the 'Aflaqite aggressors a meaningful lesson.

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Turkish Envoy Summoned Over Demirel Remarks

JN0305175895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1744 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—The Foreign Ministry summoned the Turkish charge d'affaires in Baghdad today and requested an official clarification of statements attributed to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, published by the Turkish newspapers yesterday. The statements call for seizing part of Iraqi territory and annexing it to Turkey on the pretext of combating terrorism.

Commentary Attacks Statement

JN0405100595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 4 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—The statements issued by colonialist media, citing Turkish newspapers, are yet another of the schemes being implemented against Iraq.

Despite the seriousness of these statements and their premeditated objectives, Iraq was aware that the U.S. Administration's failure to twist Iraq's arm will prompt it to launch an unjust media campaign against Iraq by leveling false accusations and issuing fabricated and false statements.

Regardless of the source of these statements and those who made them, the Iraqi people, who are rallying around their leader, will resist any encroachment on Iraq's national borders and territorial integrity by all legitimate means. Mesopotamia will always remain united from the far north to the far south.

Meanwhile, a worthwhile question is: Do international norms, the laws of good neighborliness, and the interests of both the Iraqi and Turkish peoples permit the recent Turkish conduct against Iraq represented by the military invasion of northern Iraq on the pretext of fighting the Kurdish terrorism? Certainly, the international norms and the laws of good neighborliness do not permit this conduct. This Turkish conduct has been carried out in exposed collusion, and in close coordination, with the U.S. Administration.

We in Iraq have frequently asserted that Turkey's interests and security are linked to lifting the blockade on Iraq, resuming the wide trade exchanges with Iraq, bringing life back to normal in northern Iraq, and eliminating the gangs and rebels there. We have also asserted that the submission by some Turkish officials to the U.S. Administration's will will not serve Turkey, its economic interests, or its political positions.

Turkey's national interests require that its relationship with Iraq be in harmony with the desire of wide Turkish popular and political circles, which view a stable relationship between Iraq and Turkey as a sure guarantee for the prosperity of Turkey's economy and people.

Stemming from Iraq's genuine desire that its relations with Turkey be normal and based on mutual respect, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry yesterday summoned the Turkish charge d'affaires in Baghdad and requested an official clarification of the statements that were attributed to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and published by Turkish newspapers yesterday. These statements called for annexing part of Iraqi territory to Turkey on the pretext of fighting terrorism.

Regime Troops Reportedly Deployed in al-Basrah

NC0305153395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our sources have monitored movements by tyrant Saddam's troops in al-Basrah Governorate in southern Iraq. The same sources added that the 6th Armored Battalion of the 51st Armored Division has taken up positions in (Shalamsha), Sayyid Jasim, and Sayyid Jabir. Forces from the Emergency Troops [quwwat al-Tawari'] and an independent Infantry Brigade have also been deployed in these areas.

According to our sources, the regime's troops have carried out a campaign of arrests against citizens in vast areas of al-Basrah and its environs. The same sources stressed that armed clashes had taken place between the tribes and Islamic resistance fighters on one hand and the regime's troops on the other hand. The regime's troops were trying to storm villages and populated areas close to al-Tannumah and (Shalamsha). The sources added that the security situation throughout al-Basrah is deteriorating because of the rising anger against the regime and its security and partisan gangs, who are harming and extorting citizens in various ways.

Ramadan Claims Iraqis 'More Determined' Than Ever

JN0405094895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that in the fifth year of the blockade, the Iraqis under President Saddam Husayn are even stronger and more determined to foil the conspiratorial plans against them.

During a meeting with Husayn al-Bahluli, assistant secretary general of the International Federation of Arab Trade Unions, and Muhammad al-Mansuri, head of the Arab and Islamic Committee in Denmark, Ramadan added that through Resolution 986, which was categorically rejected by all Iraqis, the United States sought to peddle its ambitions and undermine Iraq's sovereignty.

He pointed out that the Iraqis and the free Arabs are aware of the malicious acts of the U.S. Administration

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against peoples in order to achieve hegemony over the resources of other countries through unilaterally controlling international politics. He asserted that the exposure of these acts has made the United States a representative of a minority in the international community and caused it to stumble while trying to influence this community.

Al-Bahluli and al-Mansuri highly praised President Saddam Husayn's wise leadership, the splendid march of reconstruction, and the Iraqis' steadfastness. They also asserted that the free Arabs are proud of the achievements the sons of Iraq have realized in various fields.

Country's 'Firm' Stand 'Aborted' Resolution 986

JN0405095695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0652 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—An Iraqi paper has termed American Resolution 986 an exposed maneuver aimed at aborting Iraqi efforts and obstructing the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. In an article today, AL-QADISIYAH newspaper adds that through their resolution—the plot—the Americans distracted attention from Ekeus' report and from the joint Russian- French proposal calling for the implementation of Paragraph 22. Amid this loud clamor America created, it attracted some submissive and weak states and exerted pressure on others.

AL-QADISIYAH noted that the American resolution was peddled and endorsed by the Security Council because of the gap included in Ekeus' recent report represented by what he termed as the biological file, as well as because of Ekeus' writing style, in which he keeps the endings loose and open so that they can be interpreted as the Americans want.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: The U.S. Administration and its allies used the gap in Ekeus' recent report and inflated it in such a way as to make the members of the Security Council believe that the biological file is a serious problem that will have an effect on the final judgment on the outcome of Ekeus' report.

The paper says that this does not mean that all members of the Security Council are fully convinced on the American resolution. It also does not mean that there has been a change in the stands of Russia, France, China, and other countries, which call for implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

AL-QADISIYAH says: The decisive matter was our people's firm and categorical rejection of American Resolution 986. Our stand has aborted the resolution, which was stillborn dead like Resolutions 706 and 712.

In its article, AL-QADISIYAH says: Continuing the jihad to strengthen the basis of construction and industrial and agricultural production, rendering the best services to our steadfast people, and resuming our political and media campaign are the key to our victory in our decisive battle, the battle for lifting the comprehensive blockade and crossing to the other bank, which is not far away.

*Commerce Minister Interviewed on Sanctions

95LH0128A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Mar 95 p 3

[Article: "In Address to Symposium on Human Rights in Iraq, Commerce Minister Says: 'Continued Blockade Is Tantamount to Genocide'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Numerous questions concerning Iraq's refusal to enact Resolutions 706 and 712 on exporting $1.6-billion worth of our oil accumulated with us. Because Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih had answered these questions at the symposium on human rights in Iraq, which AL- JUMHURIYAH Center for International Studies had sponsored, we publish here excerpts of the address of his excellency, the minister, concerning these questions.

To begin, I express special thanks to the brothers at AL-JUMHURIYAH for giving me this opportunity to participate in this symposium because this new condition is a good and important condition.

I will talk about actual practices and actions that have emanated from the United States, Britain, and those who have helped them blockade Iraq's sustenance. I will also talk about the connection of Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, which have been noted by Muhammad al-Jizari, with paragrawph 20 of Resolution 687.

Our annual food imports, and I mean by this Ministry of Trade imports solely, amounted to nearly $3.5 billion in 1989.

The blockade started with Resolution 661, which prevented food imports, except in specific humanitarian cases—i.e. cases when the Iraqi people reach the brink of starvation. But, what actually happened in August 1990? We at the Trade Ministry had already ordered certain quantities of food imports according to the scheduled import program.

What happened to food shipments that were already on their way? A wheat freighter arrived in al-'Aqabah port but was prevented from unloading. On the orders of the U.S. administration, it was sent as a gift to the Egyptian Government. The Jordanian authorities are aware of this fact.

The same thing happened with a milk shipment at Marseilles Port, where the ship was held from 2 August 1990 till the end of 1991. We managed to get that ship released after Resolution 687 was issued and three months before this resolution expired.

Resolution 687 was issued in April 1991. It permitted us to import food and medicines. A letter was issued by the Boycott Commission chairman to all countries. This letter says, "Governments are permitted to free Iraqi

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assets that they have in their banks, if they wish to do so of their own volition, for the purchase of food, medicine, and civilian equipment. This may be done by notifying the Boycott Commission through simplified procedures." We did actually take advantage of some Iraqi assets deposited in a number of countries, such as Switzerland and Italy. Eric Hoskins, a Canadian physician who drafted the study of an international team from Harvard, was able, with his personal efforts, to persuade the Canadian Government to release $2 million.

With these words, I seek to make an important conclusion, namely that paragraph 20 of Resolution 687 actually permitted the purchase of food and medicines. However, our imports over 1.5 years equaled what we needed to import in one month. Despite this, the paragraph was applied with simplified procedures. We distributed our imports to the Iraqi people with ration cards.

But in 1992, the United States and Britain pursued this issue. When Resolution 706 was issued, the two countries felt that there was a loophole through which we could continue to get a part of the Iraqi people's food and drugs. So, they had the council issue Resolution 778 on 30 September 1992. This resolution suspended paragraph 20 of Resolution 687, which concerns the purchase of food against frozen Iraqi assets.

The question is: "Why was Iraq given the opportunity to purchase and distribute food and drugs, and why was it then prevented from importing a small part of its people's food and drugs?"

The objective is political. It is the goal of the United States and Britain to create starvation in this country and to cause the country's social system to collapse so they can accomplish their hostile plans and objectives. This is the gist of what officials in the two countries want.

Since 30 September 1992 and to this moment, they have prevented us from utilizing frozen Iraqi assets, which amount to nearly $3.5 billion. The financial measures listed in Resolutions 706 and 712 followed, and these measures did not function in the world banking markets for import purposes. After five rounds of negotiations with the United Nations, we made some progress in partially, not totally, activating these measures. The problem was: How do we import?

This is why we proposed the enactment of paragraph 20 of Resolution 687, considering that we had played this role with the same mechanism under UN supervision. But they rejected this proposal.

In addition to this banking problem, these resolutions provide the opportunity for intervention in our domestic affairs by deploying UN observers to watch food distribution in Iraqi cities and villages. This is something that was not contained in paragraph 20 of Resolution 687. Even though the ration card has worked successfully, as attested by well-known international circles, and despite the fair distribution of food to all factions of the Iraqi people, the Iraqi side tried to facilitate these measures by way of an agreement with the Boycott Commission to allow a company to observe the delivery of food and drugs to Iraqi territories. But how can we agree to let a foreign circle supervise the distribution of food that we purchase with our Iraqi money! What is even harsher than this is the insult directed at the Iraqi people with the technical details of Resolutions 706 and 712, which call for assessing the impact of food on Iraqi citizens by measuring their arms [biceps]. Is there a U.S. or a European citizen who agrees to be subjected to such a thing? Iraq is a deep-rooted and wealthy country that is known for the pride of its people. They [United States and Britain] want to do this at a time when UN organizations can inform their authorities of the real situation! They have refused to accept the opinion of UNICEF, of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and of the UN Development Program, and they have demanded the implementation of that which offends the Iraqi citizen's dignity.

There is an evident political goal behind such measures. These countries and these circles will try to spread misleading reports on the country's food situation by saying that the Iraqi government distributes in these Iraqi towns and villages something different from what it distributes in those Iraqi towns and villages. They seek to create division among the Iraqi people. This is our understanding of the political objective of Resolution 706, and we have rejected it accordingly.

Iraq has not been able to defuse the political objectives that Britain and the United States seek to accomplish through Resolution 706 so it can take advantage of the remaining [frozen] sum, which amounts to $990 million, even though this sum represents but an insignificant part in the import program of the ministries of health and trade, which amounts to $4.5 billion annually.

*UNSC Member Positions on Sanctions Discussed

95LH0127A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Mar 95 p 6

[Article by Abd-al-Qadir Muhammad Fahmi: "United States and Position on Tyrannical Blockade; Wager on Losing Cards"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Repeatedly throughout four years and with the approach of any UN activity to review and evaluate Iraq's position on its commitments to the resolutions issued by the Security Council or of any vote on resolutions that are likely to alleviate the injustice and tyranny suffered by the Iraqi people, it has become customary for the United States to reject to deal with the givens of the Iraqi position with any fairness or objectivity that reflect sincere and impartial intentions. Matters have reached such a point that the phrase "Iraq is still not committed to the UN resolutions" reflects not

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only a constant in the U.S. traditions of dealing with Iraq but also a loathsome and detestable phrase because it has been repeated so often.

It is our assessment that there is nothing to call for surprise in such a position. It is difficult for one to hope that change and reason will find their way to a country like the United States. This country's foreign political conduct and its foreign relations patterns are distinguished by coercion, intimidation, and opposition to peoples' aspirations to determine their fate and to choose their own methods of development and advancement. It is also difficult for one to embark on a search for solutions to this policy.

Since historical experience confirms the lack of reliability in the US foreign bonds and relations, considering that history has not shown us to this moment that the United States has adhered to its commitment to any constant ally or has fulfilled its obligations to others, excluding the Zionist entity, this experience also assures us constantly that, within the framework of dealing with others, the US mind and conscience are still governed by the concepts of coercion, domination, and the forceful imposition of the U.S. will.

Insofar as Iraq is concerned, the pending question is: Is there a way to lift the blockade? Till when will the Iraqi people continue to be blockaded?

There are fundamental facts that are supposed to be taken into consideration in any serious discussion of the blockade.

We must first remember years of the war with Iran when the Iraqi people went through a "period of time" in which some felt that that unjust and devastating war was going to go on endlessly and for as long as the Iranian mind failed to regain its sense. Next to this pattern of narrow and limited thinking, the majority, which believed in the soil of the homeland, the justness of its cause, and the firmness of its leadership, saw that victory was undoubtedly coming, even if after a long wait. There was a leading intellect that knew what it was doing, that believed in what it was founding, and that was careful with its plans. In the calculation of extended time, it was no more than brief moments when Iraq, both people and leadership, was able to score a unique victory with distinguished results. That victory was founded on a strong will, endurance of hardship, and belief in the justness of the battle. Another fact that we must understand profoundly and objectively is that we are all living under conditions of confrontation, even though the instruments of this confrontation are not military. It is a historical battle. The pressures and hardship endured by the Iraqi people in this battle are unprecedented. With its means and its management instruments, this battle falls within the framework of an organized genocide. The instruments of this battle are nonmilitary econopolitical instruments. It is a battle in which the adversary mixes the methods of deception and premeditated falsification of the truth. As in all major historical battles, will and honor are inseparable twins. Rather, they are two fundamental requirements in taking the battle to its ultimate objectives, which are embodied in the real crossing and victory. In this battle, the people's faith is an important element. The more strongly this faith is founded on conviction in the justness of the cause for which the battle is fought, the firmer and more invincible it makes morale. The morale component becomes a firm and stable pivot when society believes in justness of the cause and soundness of the objectives. This component creates social unity and motivates people to make great sacrifices for the pure and desired goals, giving them priority over other issues.

Strengthened morale is an inevitable must in times of crises, conflicts, and wars. Therefore, belief in the legitimacy of goals creates among the popular sectors the supreme willingness to make more sacrifices and to take supporting positions. There is no doubt that steadfastness and ability of the parties involved to wait and to endure burdens and unexpected costs are embodied in times of crises. Without a high morale to bolster the spirit of steadfastness, it is impossible to carry on with the confrontation under critical conditions. There is a firm conviction that conflicting wills cannot be defeated unless self-confidence is shaken and morale is broken. When such a thing happens, an imbalance develops and it becomes easy for one party to impose its political will. As the history of feuds and conflicts shows us, a will founded on a high and firm morale cannot be defeated quickly and easily by a shock.

Therefore, steadfastness and the ability to defy are essential. One is supposed to coexist with them and to adapt to their dictates. Since the blockade represents an objective fact imposed on us—a fact that we must comprehend and with which we must live—it is also, and under all circumstances, a transient and phased condition that will inevitably culminate with our people making the crossing.

On the other hand, there are qualitative positive developments that we cannot ignore or drop from our consideration, especially when we observe and follow the positions of some Security Council members. Iraqi diplomacy has been able to make significant strides in reaffirming the equanimity and legitimacy of Iraq's position and its adherence to the Security Council resolutions. This diplomacy has been able to demonstrate that the U.S. administration's game and its determination to starve the Iraqi people is supported by legal justifications no longer. Rather, the principles of the game and the rules for its management offend the requirements of justice and the principles of ethical human dealing. Thus, the U.S. administration has moved to the phase of lying and of falsifying and distorting the facts connected with the honest Iraqi position.

If there are positive indicators, then the first thing one should point out is the transformation in the official and popular world public opinion, which has begun to understand justness of the Iraqi cause more objectively than ever before.

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Regarding influential forces in the international system, we can observe qualitative changes in the positions of Russia, France, and China. In addition to their serious understanding of Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations to the Security Council, these forces have begun to view the issue more realistically. Strategic and interest-oriented considerations have begun to form real pressuring elements, especially on the Russian and French positions. These forces have begun to realize the benefits emanating from normal dealing with an Iraq that is not blockaded are far better than gains achieved with a continued blockade against the country.

Russia continues to give strategic importance to the Arab Gulf region in its temporary and future calculations. It realizes fully that Iraq, more than any other party in the Gulf, can play an important role in bringing about mutual benefits.

This development in the Russian position was embodied most clearly by Sergey Lakov, Russia's Security Council ambassador, when he declared his opposition to any ideas that seek to impose new conditions on Iraq. He noted that the presentation of any preconditions is in conflict with the Security Council's objectives and that the United States was trying to alter the Security Council resolutions in order to continue applying the sanctions. The ambassador underlined his country's willingness to take the necessary measures to put an end to the Iraqi people's hardship.

An understanding French position was expressed by France's Security Council ambassador (Jean Bernard) who noted that all elements in Iraq's accomplishments are very promising and that Iraq has been exerting serious efforts to cooperate with the Security Council. The ambassador emphasized the need to lift the oil embargo imposed on Iraq now that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations.

The signs of understanding and elements of pressure have begun to surface even in some U.S. institutions. Nine congressional members, two senators and seven representatives, have urged the U.S. administration to lift the blockade because of the hardship the Iraqi people are experiencing due to lack of food and medicine. They urged the need to advance aid as soon as possible.

These signs indicate positively that the anti-Iraq alliance front is cracking and that the rigid position taken on the tyrannical blockade has begun to be eroded gradually. The question that continues to be posed to the international community with all its members and institutions is: What is the objective that the U.S. administration is really seeking by perpetuating the unjust blockade against Iraq now that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations? Is this rigidity founded on legal supports? Is it compatible with humanitarian goals? Is it compatible with the requirements of justice and with the dictates of moral principles? Anybody with perception has the full answers to these questions.

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Rabin on East Jerusalem Construction, Peace Process

TA0305172795 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 May 95

[Special Independence Day interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by moderator Shlomo Ganor, at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Do the recent investments in Jerusalem pose any threat to the political process?

[Rabin] I read the statement issued by Chairman 'Arafat. In spite of all his opposition to what is being carried out in Jerusalem—and he has been very active in arousing a wave of opposition and in recruiting international support for this opposition—even he understands that reaching a solution ultimately depends on continuing the process, just as I rejected calls in Israel demanding a halt to the negotiations process following terrorist attacks and asserted that Israel would combat terrorism on the one hand while simultaneously pursuing the negotiations—taking all necessary steps to guarantee the security of Israeli civilians against such terrorist attacks without halting the negotiations.

[Ganor] Has the cabinet been presented with housing plans for the Arab residents of East Jerusalem?

[Rabin] Let me tell you about the difficulty here. Today, officially there is a readiness to issue permits for the construction of thousands of housing units for East Jerusalem Arabs in Jerusalem. However, there is no organizational framework for building neighborhoods. The government may very well have to get involved and help with construction, both by establishing infrastructures as is the case in all neighborhoods.... [pauses] Incidentally, in certain neighborhoods the citizens bear the cost of the infrastructure, whether sewage or roads. There are specific things the government must supply to the neighborhood such as electricity and water. I asked the construction and housing minister to do whatever is necessary so that East Jerusalem Arabs will be able to build housing units where they want to live.

[Ganor] Mr. Prime Minister, on a day like this the Arab citizens of Israel seek answers to their questions regarding equality and the closing of social gaps. What can you tell them?

[Rabin] I can assure them that no Israeli government has ever done as much to close the gaps as the present one. I suggest that you visit the Arab villages and see the roads being built by the Transportation Ministry. We are improving the sewage and lighting facilities. The most progress however is being made in the field of education. I think that the tremendous investments we made in education are being distributed equitably. Nevertheless, such equality cannot close all the gaps. I will give you another example. This government decided to cancel specific budgets formerly earmarked for discharged soldiers, which in practice were also granted to Jews who did not serve in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. We have stopped this and promised to stop all discrimination during our present term in office. These budgets, which I regard as financial aid to young families, will be allocated on the basis of uniform criteria to each and every Israeli citizen whether Arab or Jew and regardless of whether or not they served in the IDF. As for discharged soldiers, they benefit from the Discharged Veterans Bill. The previous budgets sanctioned a discriminatory practice which was rectified by this government. We are talking about hundreds of millions of shekels a year.

[Ganor] In conclusion, Mr. Prime Minister, what do you wish for the Arab citizens of Israel on Independence Day?

[Rabin] I wish them a happy and safe holiday. I hope that we will be able to promote the peace process and develop the country before Israel's 48th Independence Day next year, achieving our goals both in the field of peace and security as well as with regard to domestic affairs. I will add that considering that Israeli Arabs of the Muslim faith will be celebrating 'Id-al-Adha next week together with the rest of the Muslim world, I would like them to celebrate in the spirit of the freedom of worship guaranteed by the State of Israel, especially to the Israeli Arab Muslim community. I would also like to send holiday greetings to the neighboring states, and especially to those with whom we are at peace or conducting peace negotiations.

[Ganor] Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, and have a happy holiday.

Rabinovich: al-Asad Not Behaving Like 'Partner'

TA0305120495 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 3 May 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Dr. Mordekhay Wertheimer]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Al-Asad has indeed decided to make peace with Israel, but the decision is worded in such vague terms that it is not practical. The proof of this is the fact that it has not yet produced an arrangement." This remark was made by Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, in a special interview with HATZOFE.

"We not only made a decision to reach an arrangement with Syria, but we act like we want to implement that decision; however, we need a Syrian partner and, at this stage, Syria is not acting like a partner according to my definition as outlined above," Rabinovich said.

"One of the most interesting lessons I learned over the past several months is that it was not very beneficial for various Western visitors who met with President al-Asad and other Syrian officials to formulate the argument that

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the Syrians had better hurry up and close a deal with the current Israeli Government because no one knows what will happen after the 1996 elections. This, in fact, casts doubt over the value of concluding an agreement with the current government. Anyone who believes that by raising this argument he is promoting the process comes to see that it does no good," Rabinovich said.

Regarding the negotiations with the Palestinians, the ambassador said: "I agree that the next stage will be critical because it will involve territories that are very sensitive and important to us and very desired by them. Not less important is the dialogue between 'Arafat and his partners or rivals in the Palestinian sector."

"We are not naive, and we did not come to this region yesterday. We have plenty of experience in negotiating with the Palestinians and 'Arafat. I would not want to prejudge him, but there are very objective tests. We will not be satisfied as long as we do not see the law banning various bodies from carrying arms enforced."

Antipersonnel-Mine Detectors Purchased From Austria

TA0305160595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 95 p A10

[Report by security affairs correspondent Sharon Sade]

[FBIS Translated Text] Several weeks ago, the defense establishment ordered about 500 Austrian-made antipersonnel-mine detectors at a cost of about $2 million, which are due to arrive here soon.

Israel purchased the mine detectors at a reduced price as part of a previous wide-ranging deal of 10,000 mine detectors of that model between the U.S. Army and the Austrians. The Austrians allowed Israel to enjoy the same reduced price given to the Americans. The deal was funded from Israel's defense budget and not from U.S. aid funds.

Austria imposed an embargo on trading in arms and military equipment with Israel and made sure not to make public any defense contacts with Israel due to its concern about the reaction from the Arab states. A rapprochement between the defense establishments of the two countries started several months ago, especially due to the progress in the Middle East political process and the agreement with Jordan and the Palestinians.

The Austrians recently permitted Israeli firms to compete in tenders to supply ammunition and weapons to the Austrian Army. A large Israeli defense industry is competing for a tender worth tens of millions of dollars. Senior Israeli officers visited Austria recently to study various aspects of cooperation.

IAI Conducts Successful Test Flight of New UAV

TA0305160295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 95 p C3

[Report by Sharon Sade]

[FBIS Translated Text] A remote-piloted vehicle of the "Mahatz" model, produced by the Israel Air Industries' [IAI] engineering center and its Malat unmanned-aerial vehicle [UAV] factory, yesterday scored a technical accomplishment of international scale when it successfully completed a test flight lasting 51 consecutive hours and 20 minutes at an altitude of approximately 10,000 feet.

The UAV was brought back to land yesterday afternoon, but according to Tzvi Arazi, the director of the IAI's engineering center, the Mahatz still had enough fuel to remain airborne. The Mahatz embarked on its flight Sunday [30 April] morning and spent most of the time over the sea.

A furious storm that developed during the Mahatz' flight and disrupted the takeoff and landing of civilian aircraft had no effect on the UAV. The Mahatz carried a cargo of 200 kg and 400 kg of fuel. According to the IAI, its minimum flight speed was 90 km per hour. The UAV can therefore achieve a range of over 5,000 km, a fact that has great operational significance.

The Mahatz is an innovative UAV with state-of-the-art aerodynamic planning, capable of flight without ground-based control. Its wingspan is 16.6 meters, and its maximum takeoff weight is approximately 1150 kg.

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Rabin, King Husayn Give First Joint Interview

TA0305202995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 May 95

["First" joint interview with Jordanian King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Dan Margalit at the royal palace in al-'Aqabah on 1 May—recorded, in English with Hebrew subtitles; processed from the English]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [Margalit] Good afternoon, Your Majesty the King.

[Husayn] Good afternoon to you.

[Margalit] And Your Majesty the Queen, and Prime Minister Rabin.

[Rabin] Thank you for remembering me.

[Margalit] And Mrs. Rabin and Your Royal Highness, Crown Prince Hasan and distinguished guests. Your Majesty, on my way here to al-'Aqabah I said to myself: What a unique phenomenon. King Husayn may be the only leader in the world that his enemies were fond of him even when they still were his enemies—a great thing. And now we are at peace, Your Majesty. Could we say that this peace exists between leaders? What should be done in order to make it a peace between ordinary people.

[Husayn] Well I believe that it is not a peace between leaders alone but a peace hopefully that will be between people. And I believe we are seeing evidence of that already. This [words indistinct] a constitutional process in this country, and the response of the majority of Jordanians was favorable to peace and to the future hope of relations to come amongst our peoples in both countries and for the region as a whole. I believe that at times one wonders if we are moving rapidly enough but looking back at a few months ago what we have covered is a great distance in a short space of time. And, as for the Israeli reference to me, I always was fortunate to have so much warmth and support, and I believe that the relations between our two countries—as they are between us—have always been based on mutual respect. Despite the many, many difficulties and lost years, I on my side found that I should always try to place myself in my opposite number's position. And we are hopeful that this will be an example of a warm peace, of a peace between people. And that it will manifest itself in results as rapidly as possible, because for it to be really meaningful you have to change the quality of life of people and they have to see evidence of progress. So, in regard to the skeptics, I think that we have a race with them. And over two, three years, four years—whatever—we shall transform this Jordan Valley, the death valley, into a valley of peace, and we shall bring such changes hopefully in the lives of our people, remove all the barriers between them and create the atmosphere that will set this peace as an example to others in our region and an inspiration. I am totally committed, I am totally confident, totally hopeful of the future that will leave generations behind us something that is worthwhile, something that we never had.

[Rabin] You asked to what extent peace is between leaders, not between peoples. In the case of peace between Israel and Jordan, as you know, there is at least in Israel a national consensus. I cannot recall any peace treaty that was approved in the first call by 105 members out of 114 that attended the meeting in the Knesset. And therefore the peace with Jordan was not an issue that divided the Israeli people. But may I add: I believe the role of leaders is not only to pay attention—I speak as an Israeli—to the polls, to the public opinion. Leaders have to look beyond what is popular or not popular among their own people. Again, I return to what I know about Israel, and as an Israeli, I do not pretend to speak about other countries' leaders. I believe the story of his majesty King Husayn shows that for a long time—over 50 years—that he was in power, he decided what he believed in, and I believe that this is the meaning of leadership.

[Margalit] You are satisfied with the pace of this peace?

[Husayn] I am satisfied. Everything we agreed upon was implemented on time or ahead of time, and we are continuing the process of peace building after the [words indistinct].

[Rabin] I cannot recall any act of reconciliation, understanding, reaching an agreement in the context of the Arab- Israeli conflict. And I felt very honored and privileged by the readiness of his majesty King Husayn to hold this meeting here. Between our former Day of Independence and today, the greatest achievement was the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

[Margalit] Is there a danger that the impasse between Israel and the PLO might influence the relationship between Israel and Jordan?

[Husayn] I certainly hope and I know the prime minister shares my hope and has always done so, that whatever we achieved will be a cornerstone of the building of a comprehensive peace in this region. I hope it will be an example to others. And I would like to say here that to those who say we might have gone too fast, I believe that we are trying to make up for many, many years that were lost to all of us. And I do not believe that I am talking about Israel and Jordan alone here, but about others and other tracks. And I hope that as responsible people all of us will make our contribution for the better future, secure future, of all our peoples. To give them the chance that we never had, the opportunities that we never had to live the kind of life that is worthy of them as the children of Abraham. There have been many, many mistakes, many errors made in the past, but they cannot go on. I certainly hope the Palestinians will be a very vital part of the peace process, and I certainly support them as a [word indistinct] in terms of their legitimate rights. I hope their contribution will be a big one and certainly when they decided to move on their own, we provided

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them the opportunity to do so. We supported their steps toward peace, and we hope that they will continue to the final conclusion which is to develop as the whole. I hope the Arab [word indistinct] will also go in the right direction soon.

[Margalit] Your majesty, what would you recommend to improve the negotiations with the Syrians?

[Husayn] I do not know. I can only say that as far as we are concerned we are in a position of responsibility. We had an opportunity and a duty to perform. We got together. We worked on it. Not only ourselves but our people, and we got the results that we all desired that were not a victim to one side or the other but a victory for both. A victory to peace and to people in this region. And I hope that on the Syrian-Israeli track as well and the Lebanese one as well as the Palestinian one, there will be progress so that we can have a comprehensive peace in this region.

[Rabin] Well, I believe that peace can be achieved only with the dignity and the interest of both sides that are involved in peace is maintained, is achieved. I believe that in the past, many—on the part of the Arab world, on the part of Israel—made many mistakes. I will give you an example: About 1971 or 1972, President al-Sadat of Egypt said that he is ready to sacrifice 1.5 million Egyptian soldiers to achieve his goals. An Israeli leader that I will not mention by name used to say that it is better to have Sharm al-Shaykh without peace than peace without Sharm al- Shaykh. Why? A bitter war, in which thousands fell on the battlefields brought about a change in the position of the Egyptian side and in the position of the Israeli side. As an Israeli, I would like to see readiness to make compromises whenever there are differences. To respect the other side's vital interests as they have to respect ourselves, and to find a solution without the need for another bloodshed to bring about misery to both sides. And unfortunately, the Syrians are not ready to do what the Egyptians did when they had a secret meeting between General al-Tuhami and Foreign Minister Dayan, what the Palestinians—the PLO—did in Oslo, what we had from time to time with Jordan. And I do not believe that without intimate bilateral meetings, agreeing or not agreeing, you can really talk. And this is the problem today with the Syrians. The refusal to do what the Egyptians started, what the Palestinians agreed to, what the Jordanians had for how long I will not elaborate. The real intimate talks: really to know what are the problems of one another. [passage omitted]

[Margalit] Your Majesty, would you like to say something to the Israeli people on our Day of Independence?

[Husayn] I wish them all every happiness within a happy region that enjoys peace. I hope that peace will come to this region as a whole, and I hope that what we have achieved will be a foundation, a building block in the edifice of peace in its entirety. I think there has been too much suffering, too many losses, and too many tragedies. When you have the Day of Independence, had things moved (logically?) in a different way it could have been a joint celebration of an Israeli and a Palestinian independence on that day. It did not happen, so let us do whatever we can to ensure that we will find real solutions to problems and [words indistinct] in the future on mutual respect and real desire to see the children of Abraham and their descendants coming together and being an example and an inspiration to others throughout the world.

[Margalit] Your Majesty, on behalf of the Israeli television I would like to thank you very much for your hospitality here and thank you very much.

[Husayn] You are most welcome.

Albright Outlines U.S. Policy to Journalists

JN0405081095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 04 May 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi and Ghadir al-Tahir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright on Wednesday [4 May] described the Israeli seizure of Arab land around Jerusalem as a complicating factor in the peace process but failed to condemn the Israeli measure as a violation of the Oslo accord and international law pertaining to the status of territories under occupation.

The Israeli action "poses a problem for the peace process at this time...I am not condoning it...basically I am saying this is a difficult situation for all purposes. We do see that as a complicating factor," Ms. Albright told a group of journalists at the American embassy before leaving Amman for Cairo on the fourth leg of her current Middle Eastern tour, which also took her to Israel and the self-rule areas.

Ms. Alright strongly indicated that the U.S. would not support a Security Council debate of Israeli action as the Palestinians demanded, and France has called for.

"We have argued and we will continue to argue that the Security Council is not the proper place to have this kind of discussion," she said.

Ms. Albright said the peace process is an equitable way to solve some serious problems.

Responding to a question, Ms. Albright said: "We are concerned about the safety, security and stability of Israel. We have taken such an active diplomatic role in the Middle East peace process as we believe there will be security and stability not only for Israel, but for its Arab neighbours."

Ms. Albright is in the region to lobby support for an indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The U.S. ambassador, who met with His Majesty King Husayn and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti

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Tuesday, reiterated the U.S. argument for an indefinite extension of the NPT, which will come up for renewal later this month.

Pressed why the U.S. was not pressuring Israel to join the NPT, Ms. Albright only said that: "We believe in the universality" of the treaty.

Israel, which reportedly has 200 nuclear warheads, refuses to sign the NPT or declare itself a nuclear power, prompting some Arab and Muslim countries to link their joining the treaty to Israel's doing so.

Jordan has said its position on the treaty would be decided in accordance with the national interest of the Kingdom after the failure of the Arab League to reach a consensus on the issue.

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament 'Abdullah al-Nusur said Tuesday that Mr. al-Kabariti had told the committee that Jordan would support an extension of the NPT. He did not specify however, whether it would support an indefinite extension or a definite extension as demanded by many Third World countries.

During her meeting with the journalists, Ms. Albright said the U.S. will try to convince its allies of the appropriateness of the U.S. policy towards Iran and persuade them to join Washington on imposing sanctions on Tehran.

Reiterating U.S. accusations against Iran as "an outlaw" state that supports "terrorism," Ms. Albright said the U.S. had "very good proof" to support these accusations.

The U.S. imposed the sanctions on Iran this week but many Western countries said they would not support them.

Ms. Albright said the U.S. considers terrorism, "a global problem and [one] which we all have to deal with," adding that terrorism is not limited to the Middle East and that the focus on the area is caused by U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision on Iran and "facts and figures" on what Iran has been responsible for.

The U.S. diplomat reiterated support for the policy of dual containment against Iraq and Iran saying that the U.S. policy objective in relation to these two countries is to bring about changes in their behaviour.

"We hope they change their behaviour. That is what foreign policy is all about (it) is how countries seek through a variety of tools to change the behaviour of an offending party," Ms. Albright told reporters.

Ms. Albright said the U.N. sanctions on Iraq will continue until Baghdad has complied with all United Nations resolutions. She held the Iraqi regime responsible for the suffering of the Iraqi people.

"We continue to be concerned as the leaders of Jordan about the humanitarian situation of the Iraqi people. (But) the point that everyone needs to understand is that it is not the United States or the international community that is keeping food and medicine away from those people," said Ms. Albright, putting the burden of responsibility for the situation in Iraq on the Iraqi regime.

Describing as "excellent" her meeting with King Husayn, Ms. Albright said her talks with the King covered the U.S. decision on Iran as well as the situation in Iraq.

"On Iraq we discussed both our differences and our agreements. We have a solid backing for our position in the Security Council. Jordan and the United States share a common concern for the suffering of the Iraqi people," Ms. Albright said.

Ms. Albright said she "thought there is not a disagreement as much as a misunderstanding" between Jordan and the U S. on the situation in Iraq.

Ms. Albright who described Iraq's rejection of a U.N. offer allowing it to sell limited amounts of oil to buy food and medicine, said "stories" about secret Israeli-Iraqi dialogue have been denied.

"Every society carries on freelance operations, but in the discussions I had with Israeli leaders this (the issue of dialogue with Iraq) came up and there is no official dialogue," Ms. Albright told journalists.

UN Envoy Views Efforts To Halt Israeli Land Grab

JN0205155795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab Group at the United Nations held a meeting last night. The meeting was attended by Arab ambassadors to the international organization. Discussions dealt with Israel's decision to confiscate Arab land in Jerusalem. More details in the following dispatch from New York correspondent 'Ali Hamati.

[Begin recording] ['Ali Hamati] Arab ambassadors expressed their indignation over the Israeli decision and their worry over the dangers such a decision may pose, especially to the Arab-Israeli peace process. The conferees formed a liaison group to follow up consultations and forward recommendations to the Arab foreign ministers meeting scheduled to be held in Cairo on Saturday [6 May]. The liaison committee comprises the ambassadors of Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt, and Jordan.

In an interview with Radio Jordan on the meeting, 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordan's permanent UN envoy, said:

[Abu-'Awdah] The Arab Group meeting was called by Palestine's [UN] observer in order to discuss a number of issues, most important of which was the latest decision of the Israeli Government to confiscate land within Arab Jerusalem. Arab permanent envoys dealt with this

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issue in a bid to formulate a position to stop this Israeli measure. A number of decisions were made, most important of which was addressing a memorandum to the president of the Security Council voicing the Arab group's concern over this Israeli measure and their emphatic request to the Security Council to take whatever measures necessary to stop the confiscation of these lands.

[Hamati] Does this memorandum represent a call for convening a Security Council session to discuss the issue?

[Abu-'Awdah] Not necessarily. But, there is no objection to this memoorandum being a prelude to calling for a Security Council session if the necessary measures are not taken.

[Hamati] Faysal Al-Husayni had earlier spoken to reporters, voicing his deep concern about the Israeli decision. This is 'Ali Hamati from the United Nations. [end recording]

Al-Kabariti: Israeli Move Violates 'Spirit of Peace'

JN0205152895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stated that Jordan's position on Jerusalem and the Islamic holy shrines is well known and that Jordan has offered great sacrifices to maintain that position.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, al-Kabariti added that Israel's recent measures to confiscate territories and carry out excavations under the walls of Jerusalem and in the holy places constitute a violation of the international charters and the spirit of peace.

U.S. Stance on Iran 'Coverup' for Israeli 'Threat'

JN0305153895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 May 95 p 28

[From the "An Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "Qualitative Escalation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. escalation toward Iran over the past two days has been of interest to observers. President Clinton chose to announce his move at an American Jewish conference which was held to commemorate the Holocaust. It was noticed that the U.S. President was wearing the traditional Jewish skullcap while Shim'on Peres, who was at his side, was bareheaded.

Thus, the timing of this step and the way and the occasion on which it was announced made it look like a precious gift to Tel Aviv. It is common knowledge that the Israelis have been escalating their campaign against Tehran since late last year; that is, from the time Israel's nuclear dossier was opened. The pretext was not confined to Iran's support for terrorism. The move served as a warning of an Iranian nuclear program and as a means of pressuring Moscow and Beijing into stopping the supply of nuclear equipment to Iran. It is amply clear that the warning against possible Iranian threats is a coverup for the impending and overwhelming Israeli threat represented by Israel's nuclear program.

The U.S. escalation move, represented by a trade and economic ban, including a halt to Iranian oil imports, cannot be viewed apart from the tangible effects of the Israeli stand.

Moreover, what prompts attention and surprise is that this U.S. move came at a time when the debris from the Oklahoma blast has not been cleared yet. During the first hours after the blast, it was rumored that the Middle East terrorism was responsible for the disaster. No sooner was the truth known—that paramilitary militias in the United States believe in violence and resisting the federal government's interference in their internal affairs, especially their right to possess heavy weapons, followed by the inevitable change in the trend to hold Arabs and Muslims resposible for terrorist acts—than the U.S. President rushed to place Iran on the enemy list, thus preventing any recourse to the mind-searching process.

Thus, internal security is transferred abroad. The Israeli rebellion against international law in connection with its nuclear program is transformed into a punishable Iranian rebellion. We say with regret that the world today is ruled by these methods. However, we will not try to deny Iran's politicaly mistakes.

Motives of U.S. Embargo on Iran Analyzed

JN0305162995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 May 95 p 30

[From the "Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Iran Embargo and Some Conclusions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. trade embargo on Iran could be the natural step to consummate the "dual containment" doctrine. The following remarks support this argument and shed some light on the future U.S.-Iranian relationship.

—The U.S. embargo is mainly an oil embargo. As for the U.S. firms that marketed $4 billion worth of Iranian oil, they launched European branches with names different from their Texan names several months ago. So, there is nothing to prevent them from doing business under the new names they established for themselves. Hence, the talk of a "battle in which there are no losses" between the United States and Iran might be correct. After all, the U.S. President needs this ban for domestic reasons. The fact that the ban was announced at the World Jewish Congress takes on a high political significance. Likewise, the Iranian ayatollahs' regime is in dire need of a direct enemy so it may promote its domestic political bedlam and blame this enemy for all the country's economic woes that are making living conditions in it so hard and

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tough. Nowadays, there is discontent in Iranian cities. Iranian officials would welcome anything that could allow them to argue that fighting the enemy should be accorded top priority.

—The U.S. embargo, which is mainly an oil embargo, could compensate the Arabian Gulf states for the fall in the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar. Oil prices went up by 18 cents per barrel in a single day. It goes without saying that these states' oil sales will increase; and this will enable Washington to pressure these states into purchasing more U.S. arms and products. As for Iran's purchases of U.S. goods and spare parts, they do not exceed $400 million a year.

—The U.S. embargo was announced ahead of the next U.S.-Russian summit. President Clinton will ask Russian President Yeltsin to cancel the nuclear reactor and arms deals concluded with Iran. It is to be recalled that the Russians asked that they be granted $4 billion in loans from the World Bank in exchange for meeting that U.S. request so that the two sides may reach an "equitable deal."

—The U.S. embargo is a clear warning to Syria. Only a few days ahead of the speech delivered by the U.S. President, the U.S. State Department published its well-known report keeping Syria on the list of the countries sponsoring terrorism. One day after the president's address, the U.S. State Department announced that "terrorist groups" find haven and support in Syria and Iran. If we are to connect all this to the presence of the Israeli foreign minister in New York, and to his statements regarding the "stalled peace process as a result of Syria's intransigence," we can reach appropriate conclusions in this regard.

The ayatollahs' "cleverness" in dealing with Iraq during and after the U.S.-Western aggression is what prompted the "dual containment" policy. Will then Tehran respond to the U.S. decision by announcing a sort of advanced relationship with Iraq? Will Tehran open its borders to Iraq? Will it return Iraqi aircraft? Is Tehran contemplating the promotion of its alliance with Syria, which is threatened?

Nobody knows how good the Iranians are at understanding the intricate complications of international relations. As a matter of fact, nobody can bet on this.

U.S. To Extradite Suspect in 'Afghans' Case

JN0305163695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Justice Minister Hisham al-Tall has said that upon the request of the Jordanian Government, it has been agreed with the U.S. Government to extradite fugitive suspect Muhammad Jamal Khalifah, a Saudi national, indicted in the case of Afghans, into which the State Security Court is looking.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, the minister said that suspect Muhammad Jamal Khalifah was arrested and held by U.S. authorities.

The minister received a U.S. judicial delegation at his office in the ministry yesterday. The U.S. delegation then met with representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the Military Prosecution Office. The delegation stressed the U.S. Government's desire to extradite the suspect to the Jordanian Government because of the delegation's absolute confidence in court procedures in Jordan.

The Jordanian News Agency has learned that the suspect is expected to be extradited to the Jordanian Government soon.

Trade Protocol Signed With Palestinians

JN0405114595 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minister of Trade and Industry 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib and the official in charge of economy, trade, and industry at the Palestinian National Authority, Ahmad Quray', have signed the minutes of meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee at the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The signing reflects the desire of the two sides to boost and promote bilateral cooperation.

The minutes of the meeting is the first trade protocol signed between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority. It aims at organizing the movement of commodities between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule areas. It will go into effect after being officially ratified by the competent authorities.

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Al-Hariri Cited on Constitutional Amendment

NC0305193495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 95

[Statement by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents after the cabinet meeting on 3 May—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the outset of the cabinet meeting, we explained the issue of the constitutional amendment which is the issue of the hour. We also spelled out our position on this issue because we have observed that the media are carrying various and several ideas.

Our position is as follows: There is a Constitution. We respect the Constitution. All Lebanese are equal. We all live in a state of law. Until this very moment, we have not received anything from the Chamber of Deputies. As long as we did not get anything from the Chamber of Deputies, we cannot adopt a stand. We want to build our stand on the basis of the proposal from the Chamber. Any other talk outside this context is mere speculation and constitutes an anticipation of events.

We are waiting. I believe that you heard that the Chamber speaker wanted to hold consultations. He is currently holding consultations. When he is through with his consultations, we both will sit to discuss the issue. [passage omitted] Therefore, in light of the Chamber's proposal we will define our stand. We will not adopt any stand or make any decision prior to the Chamber's clear-cut proposal, which must receive the votes of two-thirds of the Chamber deputies in accordance with the Lebanese Constitution. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] There will be a cabinet session on Tuesday [9 May] because there are still topics to be discussed.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, there is talk about the economic and financial status. It is being said that there is great pressure on the Lebanese pound.

[Al-Hariri] That is not true. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri Comments on Negotiations With Israel

NC0305172295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today stated that if the Syrian-Israeli negotiations succeed, this will have a positive impact on the talks between Lebanon and Israel. He ruled out the possibility of finding a solution in the region at the expense of Lebanon, which he said has an important effect on the peace process.

In an interview with Dubayy Space Channel, al-Hariri stated that no cabinet reshuffle will take place before the presidential elections. He hoped that a major portion of the projects for the reconstruction of the infrastructure will be completed by the end of the year. He noted that the role of post-war Lebanon will be more important than that of the pre-war Lebanon, because Lebanon is now being built on solid and advanced foundations.

Al-Hariri assured Gulf businessmen that investment in Lebanon is rewarding, successful, and free of fear. He expected many Gulf people to visit Lebanon this summer.

Buwayz Returns, Says NPT Signing Linked to Israel

NC0305195695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned to Beirut from Paris this evening. During his trip abroad, he attended the international conference on the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], which was held in New York, and the Nonaligned Movement conference, which was held in Indonesia. Minister Buwayz said that if Israel fails to sign the NPT, then Lebanon is not prepared to sign it. This is because Israel possesses nuclear weapons, he said. Buwayz said that he met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and discussed with him developments in the peace process.

Buwayz Views Status of Peace Talks, Treaty Stance

NC0405082195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Returning from Indonesia via Paris after the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers conference, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz announced that the conference approved the paragraph proposed by the Lebanese delegation to support Lebanon in regaining its rights via a full Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territories, implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425, lifting the Israeli blockade on the south Lebanese coast, and releasing the Lebanese prisoners detained in Israeli jails.

Buwayz declared that resistance is the legitimate right of every persecuted nation and that as long as the Israeli occupation continues it will be confronted with resistance.

Minister Buwayz reported that the Bandung conference discussed the nuclear treaty. He said that Lebanon and several other countries are being asked to sign its extension unconditionally. He asserted Lebanon's position with the words:

[Begin Buwayz recording] We have reservations about extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] according to the existing and imposed methods and conditions. We urge that this Treaty be accorded a global character, namely, we want everyone to join it. When

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that happens, Lebanon will be the first to sign the Treaty and encourage such an option. As a non-nuclear country—and we might not become a nuclear country—we cannot commit ourselves to nonproliferation while Israel, which possesses at least three nuclear centers no further than 50 or 60 km from Lebanon, is not prevented from possessing such weapons and from posing a real threat to the region. Hence the Lebanese reservations about the current proposal to extend the NPT. [end recording]

Concerning his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace negotiations, Dennis Ross, Minister Buwayz said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] Of course the Bandung conference gave us the opportunity to review current issues, most notably the status of the Middle East process, particularly in light of the Israeli hesitation that has prevented progress in the negotiations. Doubtless you know that Rabin's peace calculations are still governed by domestic considerations such as the elections. Such considerations have prevented the implementation of the Madrid conference principles. Of course the United States is still seeking to achieve a breakthrough. This is what Secretary Christopher told us. I believe it will try to do everything it can to achieve this aim. [end recording]

Nasrallah, al-Shaqaqi Address Beirut Conference

MM0305141195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 May 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Nasrallah: United States Mother of Terrorism; Al-Shaqaqi: We Will Not Hand Over Our Arms"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has stressed that the resistance against Israel in southern Lebanon will continue "until Lebanon is turned into a nightmare for Israel, preventing it from even thinking of attacking it." He said that the United States "is the mother of terrorism in the world." And that its recent position toward Iran is "an honor for Iran."

Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, has announced that his movement "will not hand over any piece of arms." Nor will it cease to fight the Israelis "anywhere in Palestine."

Nasrallah's and al-Shaqaqi's position were announced at a speech rally held by Hizballah in the southern suburb of Beirut yesterday to mark the elapse of a week since the "martyrdom [suicide] operation" carried out by one of the party's elements near Bint Jubayl.

The rally began with a speech delivered by al-Shaqaqi, in which he said that "combatant Islamic forces in Palestine and Lebanon have—with unrelenting determination—succeeded in achieving a balance of terror with the enemy."

Al-Shaqaqi said that "the conspiracy is now embodied in the Oslo agreement, which is based on three elements: halting the intifadah and hitting the mujahidin, protecting the Zionist entity's security, and infiltrating and dominating the region. We have stressed—by word and deed—that we will not halt our jihad anywhere in Palestine. And that we will continue to fire on the occupation forces in Gaza. We also stressed that we will not abandon a single piece of arms."

He added: "While we can participate in any field effort aimed at averting infighting, we stress once again our conclusive rejection of any political dialogue with the existing authority (in Gaza). And anyone who thinks that the Jihad movement could halt its fight against the occupation anywhere in Palestine is deluding himself, and anyone who promotes such an idea is neither patriotic nor Islamic. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah broached the recent report by the U.S. State Department, in which it mentioned Hizballah and included it on the terrororism list. He said, "it also spoke about a group of movements and states which it continues to include on the terrorism list." He added: "I would like to stress that we pay no attention to U.S. classifications. We wonder: Who has appointed it to settle matters concerning right and falsehood, justice and injustice, heaven and hell? Who has given it such a right? We look at the United States as the mother of terrorism in the world. If there is any terrorism now, its origin and foundation is the United States." He added: "We call the United States the Great Satan, as the late Imam Khomeyni used to call it."

Nasrallah broached the threats launched by U.S. President Bill Clinton against Iran. He said, "Washington is punishing Iran for supporting the organizations fighting Israel, and also because it supports anyone defending his land. Iran can win the U.S. master's approval by keeping silent about the Zionist usurpation of Arab and Islamic territories." He also said that "it is strange for the United States to behave as though it is the protector of human rights. Who has appointed it to do such a job? It is a great honor for Iran and all Arabs and Muslims for it [Iran] to be punished in the era of capitulation and defeat. It is punished because it is refusing to recognize Palestine while it is a usurped land. And Clinton will discover that his decision is erroneous and foolish just like the decisions made by his Democratic predecessors, including Jimmy Carter."

Hizballah Radio Criticizes U.S. Trade Embargo

NC0405101495 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0555 GMT 4 May 95

[From the "Spotlight on Events" Program: "A U.S.-Zionist War on Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's announcement of U.S. embargo measures against Iran in an address to a Zionist organizations conference in the

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United States means that Clinton decided to appease the Jews even at the expense of the American people's interests.

Anyone who examines Clinton's stance can notice that it harms the interests of the U.S. companies that are indirectly cooperating with Iran. Thus the stance compromises the interests of American citizens, who will miss out on tens of thousands of job opportunities in a time of unemployment.

If Yitzhaq Rabin, the enemy's prime minister, was the first or rather the only one to welcome the U.S. decision, this means that Zionism is thankful to Clinton for his favor at the expense of his people.

If the American people do not mind helping the Zionists by deducting their salaries and allocating their earnings for the Israeli treasury, they surely oppose their administration's policy of giving precedence to the Jews' interests over their own. Friendship is one thing and the American people being used for Zionist ambitions is something else.

Iran is not the party hurt by Clinton's decision and it has many options. The U.S. companies alone will be hit with great losses and this will have a negative impact on the U.S. economy and the American citizen's standard of living. The problem will be compounded when the American people realize that such a decision is not justifiable and that the embargo is no more than a hostile measure taken by Washington unilaterally against a country that it cannot be blindly antagonized against forever without evidence or reason.

The American people cannot comprehend their government's justifications just as no European or non-European country could understand the background to and dimensions of the U.S. decision. Therefore, although they are allies of the United States, none of these countries committed themselves to the decision and did not go along with Washington in its hostile desire.

The stances declared by France, Germany, Britain, Australia, and Japan reveal that the U.S. decision is arbitrary, not objective, and not justified. The European response, which viewed the U.S. charges against Iran as lacking evidence, confirms that Washington has decided to unilaterally declare war on Iran with the participation of only one party, the Zionist state, which is allied with U.S. policy.

Indeed, Europe and all countries, except the United States and Israel, see no danger in Iran's policy and have no evidence of Iranian designs for nuclear armament. They also do not have any evidence of Iran's support for what Washington calls terrorism.

The support for Lebanese and Palestinian resistance is not a support for terrorism. At least, this is a contentious issue. While Washington regards this support as terrorism because it affects its ally, Israel, most of the world sees it as a legitimate national defense against occupation. The best evidence of this is that most of the UN resolutions passed since the world organization was founded has denounced Israel but Israel has not implemented any of these resolutions. This confirms that Israel is the source of terrorism and that any response to it is legitimate and necessary to combat terrorism.

As for Iran, the fact that after a long silence the world has recognized Saddam's aggression is enough for it. The United Nations has issued a declaration holding Saddam responsible for that war and its consequences.

After all this, there is no justification for the U.S. decision, except that Washington along with its sole ally Israel decided to press ahead with imposing its will and policy on the other countries that still refuse to submit to the U.S. arrogant, inhumane argument.

Fadlallah Views U.S. Motives for Embargo

NC0405081995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has emphasized that the trade embargo against Iran might have a negative impact on its economy but that it will not bring down its regime. He noted that the United States has suffered a complex about Iran since Imam Khomeyni launched his revolution and the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The United States, he added, is trying hard to attract Iran into its political sphere by inducement and coercion. His eminence said that, after the collapse of the former Soviet Union and becoming the world's top arrogant dominant power, what enrages the United States is a country that says no and builds its power from within.

He noted that this development was manifested in Iran's contracts with Russia and China to purchase two nuclear reactors to obtain nuclear expertise, which it wants for peaceful purposes. The United States used this as an argument that Iran wants to become a nuclear state and that this endangers the region. This is in addition to Iran's support of jihad against Zionist usurpers by backing the Islamic resistance represented by Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad in Palestine, non-Islamic resistance of the Palestinian opposition factions, and the Islamic resistance in Lebanon.

Besides, he said, Iran's firm stance against the settlement process annoyed the United States, which can bear anything but not a state that stands against the Zionist entity or the settlement. Therefore, he added, the United States launched a propaganda campaign first and an economic one later to weaken Iran's stature.

SLA Post Reportedly Attacked With Katyusha Rockets

NC0405114795 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A security source in the border area reports that Katyusha rockets were fired at the

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South Lebanese Army's [SLA] Kawkaba barracks this morning without causing any casualties.

The source adds that the Resistance men also attacked the SLA's al-Shumariyah post in the western sector.

IDF Soldier Wounded by Missile Attack in South

TA0405101295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Sagger missile was fired at an Israeli tank in the western sector of the security zone in south Lebanon this morning. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly hurt and treated on the spot. At the same time, Hizballah fired several mortar shells at SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions. There were no casualties. The IDF and SLA returned the fire.

'Resistance' Attacks, Israeli Shelling Detailed

NC0405074095 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 May 95

[Report by Samir 'Alamah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance has continued its jihad against the Zionist enemy in defense of its peaceful people and in retaliation for the occupation artillery's aggression against southern villages and areas.

At 0630 today an Islamic Resistance group ambushed a Zionist patrol on the Dayr Siryan-'Alman road with rockets and machine guns, scoring direct hits.

Security sources reported that a Zionist patrol was attacked by Resistance men this morning. The sources said a Merkava tank and its occupants was burned after the Resistance men hit it directly with a Sagger missile.

The Islamic Resistance's fire support unit pounded the enemy posts in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah, scoring direct hits. Clouds of smoke were seen rising from the two posts.

The occupation artillery has been in action since early morning. The outskirts of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and the al-Litani River basin came under 120 and 155-mm artillery fire from the enemy positions in 'Alman and al-Zaffatah accompanied by 12.7-mm machine-gun fire. A Zionist tank stationed in the 'Alman post fired several 105-mm shells at the road between Frun and al-Ghanduriyah. At the same time the outskirts of Qabrikha, Wadi al-Saluqi, and Wadi al-Hujayr came under 120-mm Zionist bombardment from the al-Qantarah post, personnel from which raked the area with 12.7-mm machine guns.

At around 0700, the outskirts of 'Arab Salim, al-Wadi al-Akhdar, Jabal al-Rafi', and the Habbush River basin came under 155-mm artillery shelling originating from the occupation post in al-Zaffatah. Over 50 shells fell in these areas. The bombardment started to abate at 0800, allowing guarded calm to prevail in the area.

Islamic Resistance Says Merkava Tank Destroyed

NC0405063895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The al-Zahrani area in Iqlim al-Tuffah came under concentrated artillery bombardment at 0630 today.

We have just learned that an Islamic Resistance statement announced that the Resistance detonated an explosive device under an armored Israeli patrol on the Dayr Yasin road at 0730 today, destroying a Merkava tank.

The statement added that the Resistance shelled the 'Alman and al-Shumariyah positions. Meanwhile the Israeli bombardment has extended to the outlying parts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Frun, and al-Ghanduriyah. The 'Arab Salim School and the Habbush School have closed because of the artillery duels.

Potential Presidential Candidates Reviewed

95AA0141A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 2 Apr 95 pp 40-43

[Article by Samir Mansur in Beirut: "Needed: A Syrian Candidate Who Will Not Anger the United States or a U.S. Candidate Who Will Not Anger Syria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Because the democratic parliamentary system in effect in Lebanon is based on sectarian foundations, some of which may be perpetuated in the new constitution, the president will still be a Maronite, the Chamber of Deputies speaker a Shiite, and the prime minister a Sunni. According to a current joke in Lebanon, every Maronite is, until further notice, a candidate for president, or is considering it.

The presidential election "season" theoretically begins in the final two years of the president's tenure, though, in practical terms, only in the final months of his term. As it draws near its end, the pitch of the movements, contacts, and analyses have risen just as is happening now, as there is scarcely nine months left in the term of current President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Yet another political joke in Lebanon goes a long way toward expressing the situation: In the Chamber of Deputies, which elects the president, the members cast ballots but do not vote, because the real voter, as has been the case since independence, is outside the Chamber, and most often outside the country.

For more than 10 years, the two most important voters in the Lebanese presidential election battle—and this is no longer a secret—have been the United States and Syria. In political circles, there are those who like to say that what is needed is a "Syrian candidate who will not anger the United States," "a U.S. candidate who will not anger Syria," or in the best case, a candidate who will please both sides at the same time.

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In the election season, several names have come up, among them the "serious" and the "usual" and a small number of those satisfied merely by being known as "former presidential candidates."

List of Candidates

The first presidential candidate is the current president, Ilyas al-Hirawi. Talk of the renewal or extension of his term grows with every passing day, and while he repeats that he will not stay on in the presidential palace one day beyond his term, he is careful to say that in the end he will bow to the will of the deputies, the people's representatives, and that if they want it, he will go along and accept a renewal or extension.

The General: Army Commander

The second candidate—bearing in mind that no one has yet officially announced his candidacy—is the commander of the Lebanese Army, General Emile Lahhud, whose name has been coming up strongly and seriously for the past several months. He enjoys great respect and esteem in Damascus; when he visited there two years ago, he was accorded such an imposing reception that some observers were moved to comment that he was being received like a head of state. The visit was crowned with a meeting—and not a short one—with President Hafiz al-Asad. He also enjoys the affection and respect of most political figures in Lebanon, though some reject him as a presidential candidate for several reasons.

Gen. Lahhud was born in B'abdat in 1936 and joined the Military Academy in 1959. He achieved the rank of Navy ensign and undertook training courses in Britain, where he was awarded a certificate in naval engineering and ranked first among all officers.

Gen. Lahhud took over the presidency of the office of Army Commander Iskandat Ghanim, then of General Hanna Sa'id and General Victor Khuri. He also took over the presidency of the military chamber of the defense minister from 1984-89, at the time General Michel 'Awn was in command of the Army.

The Lebanese magazine Al-JAYSH [THE ARMY], in its issue number 57, said of him that he is a cheerful and well-liked man who understands politics, though does not engage in it; that he clearly resisted and made known the peculiarities issued by Gen. 'Awn's command, in word and deed.

It must be noted here that the nomination of Gen. Lahhud or any other Category I employee would be exactly like the extension or renewal of the current president: It would require amending Article 49 of the Lebanese Constitution—which has not yet happened.

Nasib Lahhud

Deputy Nasib Lahhud is a relative of Army Commander Gen. Lahhud and a descendant of a political family known for its moderation and patriotism. He has not yet announced his candidacy but is seen as one of the "serious" candidates. He formerly served as Lebanon's ambassador to Washington and has a network of contacts with officials in the U.S. Administration. He has similar relations with officials in the Arab Gulf countries and Syria.

Mikhayil al-Dahir

The Lebanese clearly remember an expression used by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy when he was engaging in shuttle diplomacy between Damascus and Beirut near the end of former President Amin al-Jumayyil's administration: He said, "Al-Dahir or ruin!" The man slept the night before the elections as the country's president. But the "ruin" Murphy was referring to did come, begun by the artillery of former Commander Michel 'Awn, who opened up on Syrian positions and areas not under his control when he was heading the "military government" versus the civilian government led by Dr. Salim al-Huss. Al-Dahir is a serious candidate who enjoys Syrian support and does not anger the Americans.

Jean 'Ubayd

Deputy Jean 'Ubayd is a natural candidate, especially as he came forward seriously after the assassination of Rene Mu'awwad amidst the harsh partition and the hardship the country was experiencing as the result of Gen. 'Awn's tenacity in remaining in the presidential palace despite the fact that a national president had been elected. At that point, and after regional consultations, President al-Hirawi was elected.

Pierre Hilu

Political circles record two occasions when Deputy Pierre Hilu refused the presidency. First, he refused to take over the presidency of the transitional government when it was difficult to hold elections with the end of President al-Jumayyil's term; second, he refused to be a guaranteed unanimous candidate when he obtained the presidency following the assassination of President Mu'awwad. His excuse the first time was that he refused to head up a "monotone" government in which there were no Muslims; the second time, he refused to accept the presidency of a ruined country. Hilu is still seen as a serious candidate.

Raymond Iddih

The dean of the National Bloc Party, Raymond Iddih, is a permanent candidate for president. His friends say that he is his own worst enemy—he does not adapt or act in such a way as to obtain the presidency. He sets conditions, not the least of which is "the withdrawal of the Syrian and Israeli armies from Lebanon."

It is possibly the dean's last chance, despite his vitality and constant youthfulness, because he is 83.

Nabih Birri!?

When Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sufayr was appointed cardinal, there was a joke in Lebanon that

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Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri sent a strongly-worded protest to the Vatican because there was not a single Shiite among the newly appointed cardinals!

Birri is known for his hard line in gaining places for the Shiites everywhere, especially for those loyal to him and those who are members of the Amal Movement he heads. Many of those Shiites pin their hopes on his becoming prime minister someday, especially if a numerical majority system is implemented. Speaker Birri himself, however, rules out his attaining the presidency in the next 25 years, because he does not believe the numerical majority system will be implemented before then, and because it now mandates a Maronite president.

Rafiq al-Hariri

In journalistic and media circles, there is a saying that Rafiq al-Hariri, prime minister of a land of sects, has succeeded in becoming a sect all to himself, independent of the others. In official appointments and positions, he is careful to deal with his friends and those he trusts, whatever sect they belong to—this is what he asserts in private. Al-Hariri's supporters aspire to a democratic rather than sectarian system someday, one that would permit him to serve as president.

Franjiyah, Hubayqah, Mu'awwad, Buwayz

The Maronite names in the running in the election battle are Nayilah Mu'awwad, widow of the late President Rene Mu'awwad, and she has declared her intention to run; Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, President al-Hirawi's son-in-law; Deputy Qabalan 'Isa al-Khuri, the oldest deputy; Deputy Samir 'Awn, who some say might be the candidate of the parliamentary National Struggle Front led by Minister Walid Junblatt; and Deputy Robert Ghanim, whose candidacy will be serious if there were a search for a compromise candidate. There are also former Ambassadors Faruq Abi-al-Lam' and Johnny 'Abduh, who are also being mentioned in this election season, in the context of taking positions.

Minister Sulayman Tony Franjiyah, grandson of former President Sulayman Franjiyah, one of the strongest allies of Syria, does not conceal his presidential ambitions. He once said, however, in a radio broadcast, "This time I am with Emile Lahhud." Franjiyah is not yet 30.

Last but not least, there is Minister Elie Hubayqah, who despite his strong alliance with the Syrian leadership, and despite the radical change he brought about in his political life, still suffers from an enduring problem preventing his election, in the near future at least, to the presidency. That problem is known as "the Sabra and Shatila massacre."

However it goes, the last quarter-hour holds the secret. The name of the next president is known only to Juhaynah [proverbial tribal know-it-all], who alone knows for sure.

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Papers React to Rabin Comments on Peace Process

JN0405064095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Israel has departed from peace at a time when there is increasing international insistence on the need to enhance the peace process in order to forestall its collapse and curb the haughtiness and arrogance demonstrated by the statements of the Israeli generals.

AL-BA'TH wonders: What will Washington say to Rabin during his upcoming visit? Perhaps, this visit is not being paid at Rabin's request but rather at the request of the U.S. Administration which is embarrassed by the current practices of the Israeli Government.

The paper adds: Rabin managed to deceive Washington by obtaining its approval for a U.S. loan when the Labor Party government assumed power. We, however, do not think that Rabin can now give new pretexts in order to evade both the requisites of peace and his promises to accelerate, rather than complicate, the peace process.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The U.S. Administration must now put pressure on Israel, so it will stop placing obstacles in the path of the peace process that seeks to achieve peace in the world in general and in the Middle East in particular.

In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN discusses Yitzhaq Rabin's upcoming visit to Washington and his recent statements that he will propose new ways to improve the atmosphere of the negotiations.

TISHRIN adds: In these statements, made on the eve of his departure for Washington, Rabin also acknowledged that Syria wants peace. He, however, cast doubts on what he called outstanding issues and wondered: What is the nature of this peace and what will its price be?

The paper says: A simple analysis of Rabin's remarks reveals two things: First, there is nothing new in the Israelis' position on the peace process or their response to its bases, led by withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Second, the Israelis once again insist on tampering with words as part of their extremely serious tactics.

Replying to Rabin's questions, TISHRIN says: Syria, which called for peace and responded to its requisites and bases as a strategic option, agreed on peace talks on the basis of real and genuine implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. These resolutions provide for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Paper Attacks Israeli Plan To Expropriate Land

JN0405074495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the recent Israeli decision to expropriate Arab lands in Jerusalem in order to build new houses. It asserts that this is an unjust and provocative decision that has no justifications apart from aggravating and complicating the regional situation and stabbing the peace process in the back, a process that is already flawed and obstructed.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Such decisions ultimately mean that Israel places peace at the bottom of its priorities and that it is more concerned about expansion and settlement activity than about peace and stability.

The paper continues: This Israeli decision not only belittles the peace process but also flagrantly defies both the will of the international community and the Security Council resolutions. These resolutions stipulate that the Israeli measures designed to change the features of the occupied Arab territories and build settlements on them are invalid and illegitimate and blatantly conflict with the Fourth Geneva Convention on the treatment of populations and lands in war time.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that the UN Security Council should assume its responsibilities, exercise its powers, issue effective resolutions, and take effective measures in order to compel Israel to stop its provocative practices and comply with all the terms and requirements of a just and comprehensive peace.

Commentary Assails Israeli Policies, Practices

JN0305164195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Israel is trying to bypass the true bases and pillars of the peace process. At the same time, it is trying to create certain facts that completely conflict with the bases and principles of the peace process, particularly with Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the U.S. initiative calling for the principle of land for peace.

There is no doubt that Israel wants to retain parts of the Arab territories, entrench the occupation, and even extend it at the expense of the Arab right and dignity. This shows that Israel still refuses to commit itself to the bases and principles of peace and does not want to achieve peace. He who rejects withdrawal will reject peace and he who rejects peace will create confusion and complications in the region and keep the roots of the conflict in place.

Developments show that Israel is threatening the peace process and aggravating the situation in the region. We should warn of such a threat because it means that Israel has a free hand to tamper with the future of the region and to negatively affect world security and peace.

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Syria has repeatedly warned of the grave consequences of the Israeli practices. Syria links peace with the retrieval of the entire Golan and southern Lebanon, and voices its eagerness to exert every political effort to reach the desired just and comprehensive peace. But Israel adopts a policy that is hostile to peace; sticks to partial solutions, unilateral deals, and lame agreements; and calls for secret talks in order to get the Arabs to accept the Israeli fait accompli policy and to force them to relinquis more rights and territories.

Moreover, Israel has stepped up its aggressions and its oppressive practices in southern Lebanon and the West Bank. It has also escalated its settlement plans and its measures to change the demographic nature of the Arab land.

It has been obvious that Israel, by publicly violating international law and disregarding the resolutions of international legitimacy, stresses its departure from the bases of the Madrid conference and its refusal to commit itself to the principle of land for peace and the Security Council's resolutions calling for withdrawal and the return of the Israeli occupation forces to the borders that existed before 4 June, 1967.

Israel has also announced its rejection of balanced [mutawazinah] and equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements, to which Syria adheres out of its eagerness to reach a just and comprehensive peace.

Day after day, our belief strengthens that by continuing its practices and bypassing the reality of the conflict in the region, Israel wants to keep the Middle East in the whirlpool of wars, conflicts, and disasters and also wants to control the situation in the region in implementation of its strategy of aggression, domination, expansion, and devouring the Arab land. This is rejected and strongly condemned by the international community and it will not be accepted in any way. Israel should not be enabled to be the source of tension and danger in the region as a result of its adherence to occupation and its security allegations, which military technology has proved to be futile. The will of nations also proved that occupation cannot make peace, provide stability, or guarantee calm; that occupation will inevitably end; and that it is necessary to return the territories and the rights to their Arab owners.

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Afghanistan

Russian, CIS Forces Renew Attacks After Pause

LD0305185195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The CIS and Russian forces stationed along the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan carried out an artillery attack on areas around Chahab district, Takhar Province.

According to reports from Takhar Province, the CIS and Russian border forces attacked the village of Yalan, Chahab district, Takhar Province, two days ago using long-range weapons. As a result of this savage attack, three local people were killed and another 10 were wounded. Several houses were damaged, and a number of animals were destroyed.

The CIS and Russian forces' attack took place after a two-week pause. The Russian aircraft had earlier savagely bombarded a number of areas in Badakhshan and Takhar Provinces, causing heavy losses to local residents.

Government Forces Kill 15 Taleban in Ghowr

LD0305173795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During a mopping-up operation carried out around Ghowr Province, a number of pseudo-Taleban militia were killed.

According to reports reaching BAKHTAR, the mojahedin and Islamic Army forces stationed in Ghowr Province [word indistinct] killed yesterday 15 pseudo-Taleban militia and wounded another 40 of them. One PK, three light machine guns, 60 light weapons of the pseudo-Taleban, as well as a large amount of ammunition, were taken as booty by the mojahedin.

In this operation, which is continuing, the Jihadi Regiment, and units of the National Security Department, Security Command, and Ghowr mojahedin have taken part.

Former Minister Announces Support For Taleban

LD0305144295 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Faruq Azam, former minister of returnees affairs, announced in an interview with the Pashto section of Voice of America, his support for the Taleban group. He recently paid a visit to Qandahar Province in the company of some members of the conciliation group, met with Taleban leaders, and conducted talks with them. About the Taleban group he said the Taleban were well known people and most of them took part in the 14-year jihad.

About his talks with the Taleban leaders he said: We held talks with Taleban leaders on the current situation and problems of the country. They listened to our advice and promised to discuss and assess it. Dr. Faruq Azam added: Members of this delegation had been to Khost Province too where they spoke to Taleban leaders.

Criticizing the Kabul administration, he said: Rabbani is now seeking to form a government in which he wants to bring together his own party's members and upstage other organizations. Faruq Azam added: Rabbani is, actually, not a legal president. He does not stick to his undertakings and he rules by force. He added: Cooperation with such a government is a sin, and we are confident that these efforts will fail and he will face further anger of the nation.

India Begins Preparations To Reopen Kabul Embassy

Delhi Cites Improved Security

BK0305115295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1100 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, May 3 (AFP)—A team of Indian officials began talks with Afghan authorities Wednesday [3 May] to prepare for the reopening of their embassy here.

The improvement of security in Kabul has "encouraged" India to reopen the embassy, said A.S. Toor, who has been designated Charge d'Affaires in Kabul.

"We will be functional in the next few days," Toor told AFP.

He said New Delhi "is very keen" to resume various projects which had been initiated in Afghanistan with Indian assistance. They include the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH), named after the late Indian prime minister.

"We have brought a consignment of 10 tonnes of medicines for this hospital which will be handed over to the authorities," Toor said, promising more medicines and equipment for the IGICH in a few weeks.

The diplomat said Afghan students would be offered scholarships to study engineering, medicine and other subjects at Indian universities.

With the reopening of the Indian embassy, the number of foreign missions in Kabul will increase to three. Iran and Indonesia have maintained their missions here even at the height of factional fighting.

Peace returned to the capital, which is now out of rocket range of factions opposing President Borhanoddin Rabbani, after recent changes in the military situation in and around the capital.

The Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction of former premier Golboddin Hekmatyar quit its Chahar Asiab

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base under pressure from the Taleban religious movement which in turn was pushed away by Rabbani's troops over the past few months.

Diplomats Arrive, Discuss Ties

LD0305191195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After the return of normality and the restoration of security and calmness in Kabul, friendly countries [now] open their political agencies in Kabul.

A source from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported to BAKHTAR that, following the arrival of diplomats of foreign countries and international aid agencies, Mr. Sorut, charge d'affaires of the Republic of India, together with seven diplomats and embassy personnel, arrived yesterday in Kabul.

According to another report, the first political director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met Mr. Sorut in his office this morning. They spoke about the consolidation of relations between the two countries.

At this meeting, the charge d'affaires of India expressed pleasure at the restoration of peace in Kabul and promised his country's readiness to take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and to dispatch essential goods to Afghanistan.

The charge d'affaires of India added that India's Embassy in Kabul will soon resume its activities, and visitors to India can contact the embassy within a few days to obtain the necessary visas.

India

Article on Pakistan's Nuclear Record, U.S. Stance

BK0305154795 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 27 Apr 95 p 11

[Article by N.J. Nanporia: "A Suitable Joy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Given Pakistan and India have a jaundiced view of each other, India can be expected to derive some satisfaction from the survival of the Pressler Amendment. The provisions of 28 F-16 fighter jets capable of delivering a nuclear bomb and the resumption of military aid to Pakistan cannot obviously be taken lightly by India. Yet, more than a surface view can be taken of this legislation. Despite appearances to the contrary and the presence of extremists in both camps, the congress and the Bill Clinton administration in the United States are of one mind in not wanting to repeal the amendment.

The adversarial style in which such issues are debated in the US is liable to be misleading. The congress appears to be saying an unqualified no while the administration's opinion is an equally unqualified yes. When the US defence secretary, William Perry, described the amendment as a blunt instrument, he was, of course, right. It has done nothing to improve the nuclear situation. Pakistan's record of a surreptitious pursuit of its nuclear ambitions, including the clandestine transfer of key technology and the recent disclosure of a new reactor at Khushab Punjab amply confirm this.

This failure is a smaller version of the one involving the nonproliferation treaty and demonstrates the point that any state determined to become a nuclear power is better placed to achieve this than the International Atomic Energy Agency or other such agencies are to prevent it. For years Sweden has had a nuclear facility that remained undetected because, as expert opinion has always held, surveillance techniques are not worth the paper they are written on. They are being outpaced by nuclear evasion techniques. This explains the variable views on how Pakistan has advanced along the nuclear path.

According to the congressional research service, Pakistan has the capability of making 10 to 15 bombs. Others, including Benazir Bhutto, insist Pakistan does not have a single bomb though it is capable of producing one. Larry Pressler accuses her of lying and insists, on the basis of information straight from the Central Intelligence Agency, Islamabad already has five bombs. Other estimates have fluctuated so wildly that the only acceptable conclusion is they are calculated "guesstimates".

Calculated, because each one is so assertively and confidently made with an eye on achieving a particular political fallout. If, according to Perry, the amendment is a blunt instrument so far as containing proliferation is concerned, it has proved highly effective in applying, moderating, increasing or lifting pressure on Pakistan. The unknown factor in the Pakistan nuclear arsenal provides the margin within which Washington can exploit the amendment to inflate or deflate Pakistan's image of a nuclear menace.

Between 1985 and 1990, the Ronald Reagan and George Bush administrations chose to believe, despite mounting evidence against it, that Pakistan was innocent in nuclear terms. Given Pakistan was a Cold War ally, it was expedient to do so. Both the presidents made the best possible cynical use of the literal meaning of the word "possess", declaring almost routinely that Pakistan did not have a bomb in hand. Even that assurance was no more than the subjective opinion of one man, the US president, on whom the amendment had conferred an authority he did not deserve.

In 1990, Bush found the advantages of not certifying were far greater than issuing a routine authorisation. This annual exercise provided Washington with something about which it has always been obsessively concerned, namely, "leverage". The number of bombs Pakistan allegedly had went up or down according to the political dividends Washington could get from it.

Whether or not Pakistan was nuclear was, at best, a secondary consideration. This, no doubt, is why Perry

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was able to say quite cheerfully that his government was certain Pakistan has a nuclear weapon. Clinton's view of the world and of Pakistan in particular enables him to shift away from Bush's "no" in favour of what is euphemistically called "fine tuning". From the administration's point of view it would not do to repeal the amendment that has proved so useful in a sense which Pressler perhaps never intended. But whereas there is the negative pressure of withholding a certificate, there is also the positive pressure of promising to "modify" the provisions of the amendment.

So at one time or another the prospect is held out of a "one time waiver", of a relaxation of the restrictions on the money paid by Pakistan for the fighters and of waiving the storage fees for these planes. At one time or another Pakistan is seen as a terrorist state or as "an international player and number one in peace keeping" or as "a moderate and model democracy".

Other factors that have helped to shape the Clinton line are the pressure from the American arms manufacturers, the promotion of US business interests and the view of Pakistan as a "bridge" to the Islamic world. Whether or not these calculations validate the Clinton line is immaterial. Clinton is at one with Bush in seeing and using the amendment as a political weapon that is far from being blunt. Already the Pakistan-US consultative group has been revived and its purpose is clear for all to see. It will explore all possibilities of extending economic and military aid in various guises and ways that will not obviously violate the letter of the Pressler Amendment.

The administration pretends, notably to the Pakistani prime minister, that although it would prefer to jettison the amendment it cannot do so. This, because it would call for a change in the legislation which is not feasible at present. But in reality it has neither the intention nor the desire to drop the amendment. In this sense the congressional hardline is exactly what the administration wants to justify, the less extreme course of "fine tuning" the amendment. On this issue, the congress and the administration are two sides of the same coin. The "no" justifies the kind of "yes" the Americans want to gift Pakistan at this time. How far Washington can go in this direction depends on its reading on the global situation and the many graded options the administration has under the amendment. It can stop or go according to what the American interest dictates.

Benazir Bhutto's recent US visit testifies to the clout Washington is able to deploy by exploiting what is again-euphemistically, called the "flexibility" provided by a variable interpretation of the amendment. Today Clinton chooses to declare it is not right to keep alive an amendment that rules out either the delivery of the fighters to Pakistan or the return of the money paid for them and that he has no intention of dumping Islamabad. Perry sees the amendment as an obstacle ostensibly to reduce military tension in south Asia but in reality to provide material assistance denied to Pakistan for the past five years.

A great deal of evidence to identify Pakistan as a terrorist state is available. Yet the advantageous grey area made available to the administration by the amendment enables Robin Raphel to declare that government supported terrorism has not been proved against Islamabad and that the money and guns crossing the border into Kashmir are "coming from somewhere". Similarly on the issue of Kashmiri Pandits, this is expediently seen as a refugee and not a human rights matter.

Yet in the hot and cold style which the administration sees as a rewarding way to conduct its foreign policy, the same Raphel told a senate subcommittee "Pakistan has refused to undo what it has undertaken in the nuclear weapons area which led our government to invoke the Pressler Amendment. In the light of Pakistan's rejection of the verificable capping proposal we cannot understand why modification of the amendment would be under consideration."

On the contrary, it is only too easy to understand. The amendment is an umbrella under which anything is possible. Clinton is currently trying to enlarge the number of options he has under it without having to drop it. He sounds very good when he declares "fine tuning" is in the great cause of a secular and democratic Pakistan. But the yes and no equivocation of American policy is something of which New Delhi and not Islamabad alone can take a dim view. As for the congress, with its moralising do gooders, it is shadow boxing with its administration whether or not it realises this.

'Covert' PRC Nuclear Aid to Pakistan Outlined

BK0205113695 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 1 May 95 p 12

[Article by Brahma Chellaney: "Pak Fuel, Chinese Bomb"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Although Khushab has been under construction for about a decade now, recent reports on the reactor have helped refocus attention on China's continuing covert nuclear assistance to Pakistan. The 40 mwt, heavy water research reactor, which Benazir Bhutto claims is "tied into our nuclear power plant from China," is critical to Pakistan's plans to produce plutonium and tritium for advance, compact warheads. Pakistan currently is dependent on a single fissile-material production facility, Kahuta, based on gas centrifuge enrichment technology. Khushab's nuclear base and opening up the important plutonium path to nuclear weapons.

Plutonium is the preferred material for building light, sophisticated warheads as the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) makes weapons bulkier. The United States stopped producing HEU as long ago as 1964, while China's current testing programme points to the value of plutonium in perfecting low-weight, high-yield warheads. The plutonium path, indeed, was Pakistan's first choice, but the plan collapsed in 1977 when France

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cancelled a deal to sell a large reprocessing plant. As Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto said before his execution, Pakistan was on the nuclear threshold and "all we needed was the nuclear reprocessing plant."

Operating the World's most extensive and successful nuclear smuggling ring, Pakistan managed to erect in the 1980s a small reprocessing facility called the "New Labs" with French and Belgian technology. The facility, located near Rawalpindi, has remained idle for want of unsafeguarded spent fuel. Courtesy China, Khushab will plug that gap and help fulfil Z.A. Bhutto's plutonium dream in a year or two.

Pakistan turned to China for assistance on Khushab after failing in its efforts to breach European export controls. It succeeded, however, in illicitly acquiring a tritium purification and storage plant, piece by piece, and tritium precursor materials from two German firms. Pakistan's nuclear programme has been based on two pillars: a network of nuclear espionage and smuggling involving intermediaries and European based front organisations to buy critical components and technology; and nuclear collaboration with China. But as Western nations have tightened their export controls and enforcement mechanisms, Pakistan's dependence on China for strategic technologies has become more critical.

Clandestine Chinese assistance has played a key role in Pakistan's nuclear and missile advances. Beijing has obviously been motivated by the strategic aim of tying down India on the subcontinent to prevent its rise as a political and military rival. Subcontinental deterrence has blunted India's conventional superiority over Pakistan and undercut New Delhi's ability to stand up to China. Despite its 1993 border peace accord with India, China continues to prop up Pakistan with nuclear, missile and conventional technology transfers. Islamabad remains Beijing's largest arms client as underscored by last year's contracts to locally manufacture Chinese-model tanks and receive the K-8 advanced jet trainer. Pakistan's remarkable missile advanced jet missile advances can only be explained by the China factor.

China's nuclear assistance predates the 1986 Sino-Pakistani atomic cooperation agreement. Indeed, the most sensitive Chinese technology transfers occurred between 1980 and 1985. During this critical period, Pakistan acquired a weapons capability without Kahuta even producing any HEU. Lacking a concrete industrial and scientific base, Pakistan could not have developed its nuclear capabilities merely through the atomic components, equipment and material it smuggled in from the West. China's direct role in the Pakistani programme has been confirmed by declassified US documents and published interviews with Reagan administration official. The 1984 Sino-US nuclear trade pact is yet to be implemented because US concerns over Chinese assistance to Islamabad prompted Congress to attach tough licensing conditions.

In the early 1980s, Beijing gave Pakistan the design of one of its warheads as well as enough HEU for a couple of devices. German trained metallurgist Abdul Qadeer Khan, the central figure in the Pakistan weapons programme, announced his country's success in enriching uranium in early 1984 even before Kahuta became operational. That Pakistan's armoury of up to 10 nuclear warheads is based on a Chinese design has been substantiated by US officials in interviews with Leonard Spector, Leslie Gelb, Simon Henderson, Hedrick Smith and other respected scholars and journalists. According to several officials, the transfer involved a fairly sophisticated design, with each assembled Pakistani warhead weighing only 180 tonne as compared to the unwieldy, first-generation US and Soviet weapons that weighed at least a couple of thousand tonne. The design provided is suitable for use as a missile warhead. According to Gelb's sources, the design is that of China's fourth nuclear warhead, tested live in the atmosphere through a ballistic missile launch.

China has never cared to explain why the then Pakistan Foreign Minister Yakub Khan was present at its Lop Nor test site when a small device was reportedly detonated in May 1983. Speculation persists that a Pakistani-assembled device was tested then. China's assistance has also included collaboration in the development of centrifuges, as evidenced by the presence of Chinese technicians at Kahuta in the first half of the eighties. Shortly after Kahuta began producing HEU in 1986, Pakistan's fabrication of weapons got under way in full steam, with the HEU hexafluoride being made into uranium metal which in turn was machined into weapon cores. By mid-1987, the United States had clear evidence that Pakistan had crossed the threshold. Yet over the next three years, according to the then Pakistan Army chief General Mirza Aslam Beg, US Presidents Reagan and Bush provided false annual certifications under the Pressler Law that Pakistan did not possess a device.

As Pakistan seeks to expand its nuclear programme, it is important to bear in mind that its capabilities are not rudimentary. Otherwise the late Pakistani dictator General Ziaul Haq would not have gloated just before his death that the subcontinent had attained "a stable deterrent relationship based on ambiguity." The China nexus that enabled Ziaul Haq to realise the nuclear goal is pivotal to Pakistan's current plans to develop delivery capabilities. The 1989 Hatf missile tests announcement by Gen. Beg came as a surprise because until then Pakistan's capabilities were limited to launching elementary sounding rockets. The Hatf-1 and Hatf-2 are similar to Chinese-built, Soviet-model FROG and Scud-B missiles, while the Hatf-3—not yet tested—is being developed with Chinese help. Without saying whether they were M-11s or some other missiles, the Chinese Foreign Ministry in mid-1991 conceded that "a number of short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) that do not violate the MTCR [missile technology control regime] guideline have been transferred to Pakistan."

The M-11 and Hatf-2 can strike some major Indian cities, including Rajkot, Jodhpur, Patiala and Jammu,

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but Pakistan would need the 800-km Hatf-3 to target Bombay and New Delhi. Pakistan's missiles are all solid-fuelled, giving them some important operational advantages over the liquid-fuelled Prithvis, although the Indian missiles are among the most accurate SRBMs in the world. As Beg has admitted candidly, "The friendly country which is a common factor in almost all the major projects we have undertaken is China." No wonder the then CIA chief James Woolsey told a congressional panel in 1993 that Beijing believes a nuclear-armed Pakistan will be a crucial counter-weight to India.

With the United States closely monitoring China's missile export activity and Beijing agreeing to end its dispute with Washington and abide by the MTCR guidelines, an emerging shift in Sino-Pakistani missile cooperation is already noticeable. Unable to transfer complete missile systems and sub-systems, China is now moving to difficult-to-detect forms of cooperations, such as providing vital components, propulsion, guidance and re-entry technologies, and production equipment and know-how. Within the next couple of years, Pakistan is likely to start indigenously manufacturing M-11s under a new name and possibly the Hatf-3s. These two missile systems will significantly upgrade Pakistan's military capabilities.

India faces a Chinese bomb to the north. And to the west it faces a quasi-Chinese bomb. The proliferation threat from the western frontier, however, should not blur the larger picture. A reminder of that came recently when China abandoned its unconditional no use nuclear posture in favour of a conditional policy carrying a veiled threat to India.

Editorial Ties 'Chinese Threat' to U.S. 'Strategy'

BK0205113295 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 27 Apr 95 p 5

[From the "Global Watch" column by K. Subrahmanyam: "The Chinese threat"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the recent months there has been a sudden explosion of articles in sections of the Western press on the growth of Chinese military power and its long-term impact on East and South-East Asia.

The FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW had a cover story on it. THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE dealt with the subject in several articles. Now comes a study from the International Institute for Strategic Studies by noted Australian strategist Professor Paul Dibb of Australian National University titled 'Towards a new power base in Asia' which says the prospects of a Chinese aircraft carrier would prompt India into producing aircraft carriers of its own along with a more capable submarine force.

The study is reported to have said "if China became more powerful, India becomes a more important factor in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf would continue to be strategically unstable".

The study adds that by the year 2010, China would have a more capable strategic nuclear force with between 50 and 70 multiple war-headed solid fuel intercontinental missile compared with 10-14 now with ranges of 8,000 to 12,000 km.

The author said: "There is little sign that international pressure will induce Beijing to curb the programme". There is further forecast that Chinese would have a large number of surface to surface missiles with ranges up to 900 km equipped with nuclear and chemical warheads.

For those not following the strategic debate closely over the years, it is useful to recall that not many years ago the same Professor Paul Dibb wrote a threat assessment for Australia in which he referred to the expansion of the Indian Navy causing disquiet to the nations of the Indian Ocean littoral.

Till the cold war ended and for some three to four years thereafter, there appeared to be a co-ordinated campaign by many of the Western strategic establishments to play down the Chinese defence effort and the long-term impact of growing Chinese military power on South-East Asia.

Unfortunately, many strategic analysts of the nations of East and South-East Asia and Australia used to tailor their assessments to the cues from Washington. This is not a new development. When China was an adversary of the US in the 50s and 60s, most of the analysts in this part of the world talked of China as a threat to the whole area and about the domino theory.

Once Dr Kissinger flew to Beijing and made up with China, most of them changed their tune and started singing a chorus, that China had no expansionist ambitions and was reducing its defence expenditure.

The present spate of assessments of long-term Chinese threat is indicative of a new US strategy. Partly, this is intended to stress to the Japanese and East and South-East Asians that they will continue to need US strategic deterrent protection and this factor must be taken into account in their trade, technology and financial relations with the US.

One can see the serious contradictions between such a Western perception of the long-term Chinese threat and policies which the Western powers and their allies such as Australia are pursuing. If China is likely to pose an ICBM [intercontinental ballistic missile] threat to the US in the next two decades, will it not be more sensible to work for elimination of nuclear weapons and no first use treaty than attempt to perpetuate the legitimacy of the nuclear weapons which can help only China to augment its image of power in Asia? When China has 60-70 ICBMs, will any South-East Asian nation or Japan have any credibility in the US security guarantees? If China is likely to develop as a major nuclear and missile power, what sense does it make to bring pressure on India to sign the non-proliferation treaty and stop developing its own missile programme?

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Such confused thinking is not new and we in India have been used to it before. In 1960s, the Western nations talked loudly about the Chinese threat and went to war in Vietnam on the assumption that it would help to contain the Chinese threat without a correct appreciation of Vietnamese nationalism.

When India needed help following the 1962 war with China to re-equip its armed forces, in spite of much publicised massive military assistance from the US and the West, India had to rely increasingly on the Soviet Union for its military equipment and the US was reluctant to extend arms aid to India.

These new assessments about the likely long-range Chinese threats indicate some changes in Western strategic thinking, however, confused and illogical though they may be. They signal that perhaps as economic interactions between the West and India increase and as China's economic and military powers grow, Western pressures on the Indian missile and nuclear policies may slacken.

Already people like Dr Kissinger are talking about a world of six major actors—US, Japan, European Union, China, Russia and India. We need not get unduly alarmed about the Western assessments of the Chinese threat and accuse our policy of cultivating good relations with China even while developing our nuclear, missile and other military R&D capabilities. Japan, US and South-East Asia will have to countervail China's power much earlier than India is called upon to do so.

Human Rights Official Meets Leaders in Kashmir

BK0305160595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The UN high commissioner for human rights, Mr. Jose Ayala Lasso, today met leaders of All Party Hurriyyat Conference in Srinagar and visited the Hazratbal shrine. He was also briefed by the Army authorities about Pakistan-sponsored militancy and the human rights violations by militants and foreign mercenaries. He has now gone to Jammu, where he will meet the state governor and leaders of different political parties. Mr. Lasso will visit Chandigarh tomorrow.

Appreciates Efforts for Improvement

BK0405041895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The UN high commissioner for human rights, Mr. Jose Ayala Lasso, has stressed the need for worldwide efforts to curb the menace of terrorism and to protect and preserve human rights. He was talking to the Kashmiri migrants at Muthi and Turkhu near Jammu yesterday. Mr. Lasso appreciated India's efforts in protecting human rights and also commended the setting up of National Human Rights Commission. The Kashmiri migrants told the UN high commissioner that Pakistan-sponsored militants have forced thousands of people to leave their homes and hearths and live in camps. Mr. Lasso also called on the state governor, General Krishna Rao. Gen. Rao apprised Mr. Lasso of the steps taken to restore democracy and protection of economic and social rights of the people.

Iran

Official Reaction, Commentary to U.S. Embargo

Rafsanjani on Role of Press; U.S.

LD0305175595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today stressed the need for explaining the mission of the press in the country in accordance with the distinctiveness of the Islamic revolution, Islamic government, and the people. He called on the press to approach the state's executive issues more deeply and expertly, especially during the reconstruction period.

Speaking at the second press festival, President Rafsanjani described the press as one of the important pillars of life in the present age and added: In the era of rapid development and propagation of mass media, one cannot be indifferent to their role and fate. Facilities must be created for the media to better carry out their mission, which is enhancing the level of general information. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: If the Iranian people today stand up to the enemies' threats with honor and pride and declare that the U.S. Administration's boycott of Iran is ineffective, it is because of the blessings brought about by the infrastructural and fundamental measures undertaken in the first five-year plan. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i: U.S. Cannot Dictate 'Destiny'

LD0305135595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 3 May 95

[Speech by "Ayatollah" 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at a gathering of workers, lecturers, teachers, and academics in the Imam Khomeyni prayer center in Tehran on 3 May —recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Welcome to you, dear brothers and sisters. [passage omitted] All quarrels in the world, today and yesterday, are over a single point, that is: Arrogant powers wish to take charge of the destiny of nations. This United States—which you see is carrying out such a hue and cry and sensational uproar in the world today, and nearly always pointlessly, uselessly and to no effect—this is because it considers itself to have a superpower's right; it wants to be in charge of the world. It asks: Why did such a person do that deal? Why did

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such a government sell a certain item to another government? Why did a certain country turn down something close to the heart of the United States? Why did it not accept, etc.?

In other words, interfering in the world's affairs; that is the right it claims for itself. They want to have control over the destiny of the world. Can they do this or not? Some people say, they can. Who are they? Weak nations, helpless nations, the feeble and weak-willed leaders of some countries. These are the ones who say, yes they can gentlemen, they can do anything. Others say, no they cannot. Vital and enthusiastic forces—they say, no sir, the United States cannot do a damn thing. How can it take charge of the destiny of the world?

What do I say? I say that, on one condition, it cannot and, on another condition, it can. If the nation that is facing the United States possesses political will and resolve and if its people are lively and enthusiastic and, especially, if its people are hard-working and serious, the United States cannot dictate their destiny. [crowd chants support]

Is it impossible for the United States to dominate a country, whose nation is not committed to work and endeavor and joyful spirit? Yes of course it is possible. How did they manage to dominate so many countries? When leaders of a state are the kind who pursue deals with the United States, the latter can dominate them, provided the people of that country are unintelligent and not committed to work.

Even if a government refuses to deal or negotiate with the United States, the United States can still dominate them when the people of that country are lazy. Why is it so? Because such a government will become desperate. When the people do not work, when the people abandon initiative, when the people do not feel dutybound to manage their own country, when the people do not feel obliged to manufacture their own requirements, when the people only know how to consume instead of producing, such a people will push their country to a situation that those at the head of the government will be forced to say: now, at the end, what is the alternative?.

The sort of a nation that can stand up for its rights and resist in the face of the world bullies, impudent powers, and such greedy ones as the United States, this is a nation that says: Gentlemen, we would rather run our own affairs. And when the United States says: We are not going to sell you such and such products sir—then it hears the answer: What better, do not sell. Because when you do sell to us, we become lazy and do not produce ourselves. We would say: It is already coming packaged from abroad. Even if you were to give us a commodity free of charge, you would be betraying us.

When you close the door or trade with us and stop pouring your inferior quality goods into our country, this would serve our interests. Because we will acquire the mentality of work, joy, endeavor, and production. Believe me, since the day this naive, inexperienced and unskilled man [President Clinton] declared that he was going to ban U.S. economic ties with Iran—poor fellow, afterward he went to the Zionists' Congress and in fact they deceived him; I do not know who threw the banana skin under this person's foot; he went and proudly announced: We wish to sever ties with Iran—since then I became happy from the bottom of my heart. [crowd chants: "Death to America" and "Death to Israel"]

I was pleased from the bottom of my heart, for a number of reasons. First of all, U.S. officials used to, every now and then, make hypocritical remarks which made some people say here and there that they are not so hostile toward us; and that it is not so good, it is inappropriate and indecent that we keep chanting Death to America, that the people chant Death to America. They wanted to stifle the cry of Death to America which our people chant from the bottom of their heart. Those were people who did not understand the meaning of responsibility or were irresponsible. Now the people, wherever they may be throughout the country, can comfortably chant Death to America from the bottom their hearts. [crowd chants: "Death to America" ten times]

That was one point. What is even more important than that is that during the war against Iraq we faced a great deal of restrictions in various areas which included weapons, ammunition, and military equipment. Indeed we faced strange restrictions then. Now, those U.S. gentlemen are bothering themselves trying to impose restrictions on us. As if we experienced no restrictions during the eight years of war. What did we do then?

Brothers and sisters—I might have mentioned this before—you might be surprised to hear this. Our officials purchased some barbed wire and wanted to bring it through the former Soviet Union. But Soviet Union would not allow it. It was not even purchased from the Soviet Union, so that they could say for example that barbed wire can be used in war. Can you imagine any equipment more defensive than barbed wire? They were not even selling a simple and insignificant RPG shell to us. Can anyone believe that?

Very well. This is the same Islamic Republic which faced such restrictions then. Do you want to know what happened? The outcome was that—through God almighty's assistance—the devoted youth of this country went inside their cellars and workshops and closed the doors behind them and began working. Today we make some of the most sophisticated military equipment ourselves here inside the country.

And this is not and will never be understood by the enemy. Of course they accuse us of manufacturing nuclear bombs or whatever bombs—but this is a lie and they themselves know it is a lie. Whatever they accuse us of is a lie but they do not know about the truth and it does not even enter their minds. How were we able to ...[pauses] This was a country in which U.S. planes were flown by pilots, repaired and checked by the flight

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engineers and technicians of the air force, yet none of them dared open up these planes to look at their parts. And they were supposed to be aircraft mechanics. If any parts were faulty they had to take these to the United States for repair. So, not even our mechanics were allowed to repair these planes.

This country, these same armed forces, these same people were able to achieve great progress in this regard. Why? because of the blessings of the previous embargoes; because of the blessings of the previous restrictions. And now they are threatening to break their trade relations with Iran. Well, who gives a damn! Break them! Do you think we mind? We would be happy if you cut your relations with us. First, the world does not follow you. Is the United States the headman of a village whom others have to follow? Do whatever you want to do for yourself. It is not as if the United States will be followed in the same manner that some weak persons do in some Islamic countries and who start trembling as soon as they hear these things. What's all the commotion about?

Thank God that morale is high inside our country—from the top to the bottom—the country's officials—from the president to the Majles speaker, the chief of the judicial branch, the officials of the country, the Majles deputies and the masses of the people, everywhere in this country, you can see that morale is strong, fists are clenched and they feel happy to strongly and decisively confront whoever stands up to them. We do not have a problem in this context. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to arrogance," "Death to Zionism," "Death to the hypocrites and Saddam," "Death to Israel"]

This is all true... [voice shouts: "O freedom-loving leader, we are ready, we are ready!" Crowd repeats this slogan three times while Khamene'i can be heard saying quietly: "May God protect you."]

We are not worried about this. But what is necessary, my dear ones, is work, study. You must educate the young, dear teachers. You must nurture the spirit of work, independence, and love of knowledge in the young and discourage the urge to merely acquire graduation certificates. What are certificates? They are good for showing that this gentleman possesses knowledge in some field but scholarly works are not the product of graduation certificates alone. What is important is scientific knowledge and work. They should work. What I say about work discipline is not a verbal formality [ta'arof]—everyone, including officials and the people, should take note of this. This is what should be done; it should be planned; work ethics should become part of popular culture. Everyone should perform their work as if it is being supervised by someone else, even if that work is being done by one person alone in a room. Work should be carried out firmly, strongly, with initiative, alongside needs. And one of the things that is necessary for work discipline is education and training. [passage omitted]

This is not a verbal formality. A nation cannot safeguard its dignity by standing on ceremony, my dear ones. You cannot confront treacherous, bloodthirsty enemies with verbal compliments. Action is needed. Effort is needed. Planning is needed. We have said work ethic. We have said social discipline or economic discipline. The country's officials, the government's officials, the judiciary officials, and the Majles deputies should make planning to implement these work. If they only approve and say what a nice thing has been said by such a such person, this is not going to help to finish the work. Everyone should help. Each member of public are those who actually do the work.

My dear friends, this home belongs to you. This is your country. This is a great country too. This is a blessed country as well. This is a rich country. Considerable wealth is hidden in this soil, all of these things belong to you and the future generation of this country. Much spiritual wealth exists in this country, and all of it belongs to you. There is so much knowledge, talent, awareness and good ethics existing in Iran with the blessing of Islam, with the blessing of the ancient Islamic culture and the background of this nation, which belongs to you. When can you make use of them? When this nation is ready to work, and is firm in its decision to work. When no one ignores their work and when no one is happy not to work. There are individuals who, even when they are tired from work, go to work with excitement if there is work to be carried out. No one asks them why do you not work? But the thought of God's judgement and the needs of people make them go to work. This spirit should become popular. This is the work ethic. We hope that Almighty God and the pure prayers of the hidden imam, may our souls be sacrificed for him, will help you.

With such a situation, not just the United States but the United States and its allies and even when there were two empires, the east and west empires both together, and with all their resources, they would not be able to prevail over the will of such a nation, over such a people, and over such resolves and under no circumstances. [crowd shouts: "Death to America" and "Death to Israel"]

I hope Almighty God will grant great blessings to the pure soul of the great leader, who has opened this path to us. [passage omitted]

Envoy: Ban Motivated by Election

LD0305204195 Tehran IRNA in English 2033 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, May 3, IRNA—Despite economic obstacles created by the United States and its support of terrorism against Iran, the Tehran government remains independent and strong, says Iran's ambassador to Poland, Reza Astaneh-Parast.

In an interview Wednesday [3 May] with the mass-circulation Lithuanian daily "LIETUVOS RYTAS", the Iranian envoy called the recent U.S. decision to impose complete economic embargo against Iran as "a move by

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Clinton to secure Zionist votes for his election campaign, and to distract public opinion from security weaknesses following the Oklahoma disaster."

He further noted that the embargo would hardly have any effect on Iran's economy.

Astaneh-Parast stressed that European oil companies will benefit from the U.S. decision, and Clinton's announcement would also have negative effects on the stability of oil and oil by-products' prices.

A conference on "Iran's strategic importance", also confirmed that Clinton's decision is in contradiction to the United States' national interest, he added.

Referring to European Union's opposition to follow U.S., the Iranian envoy emphasized that the U.S. will not succeed in securing the support of European and far-eastern heads of state in the "G-7" June meeting in Canada.

Ban Needs 'Broad Front' To Work

MM0305112095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 May 95 p 17

[Article by Joseph Samahah: "U.S. Dialectics?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Bill Clinton has subjected his country to an exceptional test: Can it lead a new alliance against Iran? The decision to impose a trade embargo on Tehran is not of great significance—at least economically—unless a broad front takes part in it. The aforesaid question broaches the current administration's ability to impose its views or to convince other capitals of the need to keep pace with—if not join—it.

It is no secret that the decision comes at a time when the United States is experiencing a vigorous debate over its foreign policy between those advocating isolation or one-sided intervention and those advocating intervention in coordination with others within the UN framework. Clinton has eliminated the accusation leveled at him, namely that he is subjugating U.S. sovereignty to the Security Council, and embarked on an adventure which will not succeed unless his diplomats manage to rally support for this position. Can the United States request Germany and Japan to join it in this connection if it does not make concessions vis-a-vis the dollar's price?

Can Bill Clinton persuade Russian President Boris Yeltsin not to sell nuclear reactors to Iran without answering questions relating to aid for Moscow, the position on the war in Chechnya, the reactors for Korea, and the position on the new escalation in Yugoslavia? And what about China? How can it be persuaded not to develop relations with Iran without opening other files? Even France, how can Clinton reduce its appetite for picking up what U.S. companies are going go lose without seeking its opinion of the fate of the embargo on Iraq? These tasks are not easy at all. The United States' real "world leadership" position can be judged on the basis of the degree of success in these tasks.

The strength of the U.S. position is the end of the contradiction that existed in previous behavior, as others used to be asked to join an embargo excluding U.S. companies. Morally, Washington can now ask others to commit themselves to what it has committed itself to. But is this sufficient in a world of competition and in the light of the priority given to invading markets and Washington's inability to shoulder the responsibilities of its "leadership" policy? The picture will become clear within weeks. It will become clear how many other states are willing to join the United States in this escalation of the "dual containment" policy, which means—with regard to Iran—compelling the rulers of Tehran to change their foreign policy.

Pending that, it seems that the hard-line tendency in Iran is the one "benefiting" from this U.S. orientation. And there is nothing to prevent its leaders from heating up the confrontation with the (only?) "Great Satan" and exploiting the situation to aggravate the economic-social crisis. If this assessment proves right, the White House would face a new situation in the Gulf region—a situation capable of turning into a crisis that would compel the current President to make one of the most serious decisions in foreign policy. In this context one of two option can be adopted: Either to continue the embargo on Iraq and to escalate the tension with Iran—which means creating a very critical situation difficult to control both regionally and internationally. Or to consider that Iraq is now weak enough, and thus cannot pose a threat to its neighbors, and coherent enough, and thus can be used to deter Iran. In that case Washington can respond to its allies' requests, namely to lift—or at least ease or suspend—the embargo on Iraq. In this context it can rely on a new report from Rolf Ekeus, the recent Security Council resolution incident, and the causes and results of the Turkish operation against the Kurdistan Workers's Party. What is required in this regard is to watch the current tour of the Middle East by Madeleine Albright, U.S. representative to the Security Council. If it is similar to the previous tour, it means that Washington is intent on a large-scale confrontation surrounded by dangers. But if a new language emerges, it means that a change is going to occur in the "dual containment" policy, promoting Iran to the position of "main enemy" and demoting Iraq to the position of "secondary enemy".... Dialectics!

Experts View Ban; Cite U.S. Election

NC0405063495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 4 May 95

[Political Report From the "News Reports" Section]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our political report this week is devoted to U.S. recent propaganda commotion over escalating economic sanctions on Iran. Our political

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correspondent Qoroqi interviewed two experts on political and oil affairs in relation with this. We invite you to listen to this report.

[Begin recording] [Qoroqi] Mr. Shahabi, you are an expert in political affairs, in your opinion what motivated Clinton to take this step? In view of conditions ruling the international community, how successful do you think he will be in his objectives?

[Shahabi] The roots of Clinton's step, this new U.S. policy, or better yet, this new U.S. political onslaught against Iran, can be found in several places. Undoubtedly U.S. domestic policy has played a part, and the approaching election in the United States has also played a part. The increasing infiltration of the Zionists in the Clinton cabinet could also have been one of the factors behind this decision. The absence of the necessary foreign policy impetus in the Middle East and in the so-called talks concerning Palestine could have been another factor. As we learned from the news received since yesterday, we see that most countries have adopted a relatively negative stance on this.

[Qoroqi] As for the impact the U.S. officials' decision will have on the sale of Iranian oil on world markets, we also interviewed an oil expert.

Dr. Qorbani, as an oil expert, how do you think the U.S. embargo on Iranian oil will affect Iran's oil income?

[Qorbani] With active marketing, Iran can find new customers for its oil. This decision, as anticipated, has increased oil prices. If this trend continues it will benefit Iran and the other oil-producing countries. In view of Iran's current foreign relations we can say that this embargo on oil by the U.S. companies will not have a considerable impact on Iran's economy. [end recording]

Saudi Raid on Pilgrimage Center in Mecca Reported

NC0105191895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 May 95

[Dispatch from the "News and Reports" program by an unidentified correspondent in Saudi Arabia on 1 May—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Eighty members of the Saudi special security forces raided the headquarters of the Iranian pilgrimage mission in holy Mecca at 0040 today in order to remove a banner with the inscription "The Pilgrimage Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran" and the well-known koranic verse "Pilgrimage thereto is a duty men owe to God, those who can afford the journey."

When these forces raided the Iranian pilgrimage headquarters in the Ma'abda Square in holy Mecca, more than 2,000 security and police personnel carrying shields, clubs, and masks took up positions across the street adjacent to the mission's headquarters to prevent the Iranian pilgrims from entering the headquarters. Throughout the raid and the deployment of the security forces, which lasted 80 minutes, the streets surrounding the mission were closed to vehicles and buses. The Saudi security forces blocked access to the Iranian pilgrimage mission headquarters.

This Saudi measure surprised the Iranian pilgrimage mission, especially Hojatt ol-Eslam Mohammadi Reshahri, who asked the reason for the Saudi security forces' sudden and strange measure of removing a banner marking the Iranian pilgrimage mission's headquarters and carrying a koranic verse. The Saudi officer who led the raid replied: No koranic verse should be written alongside "The Islamic Republic of Iran's Pilgrimage Mission."

Pilgrims from other Islamic countries who were passing by were astounded by this measure and saw no convincing justification or the real reason for removing a banner bearing a koranic verse.

The security forces left the Iranian pilgrimage mission and the nearby streets after carrying out this act.

At 1100 today, Monday [1 May], a fire broke out on the upper floor of a six-story building in the eastern side of the Prophet's Mosque in Medina. The efforts to extinguish the fire took two hours; the cause of the fire was not given. The fire in the Buruj 'Abd-al- 'Aziz Khukhir Hotel, which is used by pilgrims, caused heavy material damage but no casualties.

The remaining pilgrims will arrive in holy Mecca in the coming few days and with them will be the Iranian pilgrims who will stand alongside their brother pilgrims from other Islamic countries to perform the pilgrimage rites for this year.

Tehran Assails Saudi Statement on Disavowal Rites

NC0305065895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 3 May 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bin-Baz, the mufti of Saudi Arabia, on the eve of the pilgrimage, said that the disavowal of polytheists ceremony is a type of heresy. There is no doubt that Islamic sects have differing views on rites and even principles; this is why no side will accept one sect imposing its views on another, especially when that specific view is limited to an extremely limited minority and contradicts the interests of the world of Islam.

The pilgrimage is a religious ceremony with more social than individual aspects. This ceremony lifts coordination from the level of individuals and even of urban and state societies to the level of the Islamic ummah. The hajj makes all the representatives of Islamic nations equal in

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garb, in slogan, and in rallying around the Ka'ba. Putting aside these lofty objectives of the hajj is an injustice to this great religious ceremony and an effort to deprive Islam of a unique annual opportunity that can be seized to create a type of coordination among Islamic societies.

Can an issue such as the disavowal of polytheists, which is clearly highlighted in Koranic verses, be ignored, especially when the clarification of the common stance of Islam on its enemies is the first step toward a practical path leading to fulfilling the Islamic ummah's objectives? Are not statements by Saudi muftis—that there are no disbelievers in holy Mecca and that thus the disavowal of polytheists ceremony should not be held—naive? And who benefits from such statements?

Islam is facing an onslaught from every direction by the common nation of disbelievers. The world of Islam is now confronting an enemy like the usurping Zionist regime from within and various enemies in Bosnia and in dozens of other places outside. Preventing the unity of the Muslims to confront these enemies is a clear violation of the Koranic verse that advises believers to be strict with disbelievers and kind to one another.

Commentary Assesses Turkey's Withdrawal From Iraq

NC2804155595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary: "Withdrawal of 20,000 Turkish Troops From Northern Iraq]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish Government yesterday disclosed that more than 20,000 Turkish troops have been withdrawn from northern Iraq. According to unconfirmed reports, some 23,000 troops have been withdrawn but another 12,000 troops are still in northern Iraq. Circles close to the Ankara Government have said that Turkey will completely end its military operations in northern Iraq very soon.

The officials have not released any reliable report on whether or not the military troops have been able to completely destroy the Workers Party of Kurdistan bases. Meanwhile, many of the experts on regional issues have assessed the gradual withdrawal of the military forces from various angles. They have said that the main reason for the withdrawal is the strong reaction by foreign countries to Turkey's military incursion. In fact, the matter has had negative effects on Turkey's relations with the European countries. Many of them have warned that they may reconsider the agreement on customs union between the EU and Turkey. Furthermore, considering the indirect U.S. support for Turkey's military action in northern Iraq, they seem to be convinced that Ankara and Washington have agreed to strengthen their position in the region.

It is common knowledge that the European countries are inclined to support the establishment of an independent Kurdish state in northern Iraq. It is also common knowledge that a difference of opinion exists between the United States and Europe on the matter. Considering all that, it is highly unlikely for Europe to agree to the presence of Turkish military forces in northern Iraq. In view of that, many of the political experts are convinced that the support the European countries have given to the establishment of a Kurdish parliament and government in exile is aimed at putting pressure on Turkey. So, it is believed that the Ankara government has withdrawn its military forces to reduce the pressure on Turkey.

Undoubtedly, the Turkish Government has to find a new way to resolve the Kurdish problem if it wishes to reduce the pressure on Turkey. Political observers believe that that was why Ankara recently sent a Foreign Ministry delegation to Baghdad. They also believe that Ankara is trying to convince the Kurds in Iraq to cooperate with Turkey and agree to resume their talks with the Baghdad administration to remove the authority vacuum in northern Iraq.

Paper Claims Turkey Obstructing Tripartite Meeting

LD0105170995 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—The tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Turkey on the situation in Northern Iraq which was scheduled to be held in the city of Esfahan in Central Iran this month has been postponed because of "Turkish obstructions."

The Persian daily 'ABRAR' wrote here Monday [1 May] that the meeting was of special importance because it coincided with Turkey's military operations in Northern Iraq. Turkish troops invaded Northern Iraq im March to suppress the Kurdestan Workers Party (PKK).

Iran, Iraq and Syria have expressed concern over the intentions of the Ankara government in Northern Iraq and called for the Turkish forces to withdraw from the region.

ABRAR said Ankara refused to participate in meeting because its military operations were still going on in Northern Iraq and its foreign minister would have to respond to concerns of his Iranian and Syrian counterparts on the intentions of his country behind the military operations.

Armenian Prime Minister Pays Official Visit

Visit To Boost Ties

LD0205110495 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—The Armenian ambassador to Tehran, Hrant Bagratyan, said

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Iran-Armenia cooperation has moved beyond mere mutual coordination and developed into a regional [word indistinct].

Talking exclusively with the daily 'IRAN', printed Monday [1 May], he said Yerevan has a full confidence in Iran, adding that Armenia's premier will arrive Wednesday to boost ties and sign several contracts and agreements with Iran.

The Armenian diplomat remarked that his government considered Iran a country which safeguards security of its southern borders and, therefore, has no military bases or forces on its borders with Iran.

Commenting that the only solution to Karabakh crisis is the extension of cease-fire and beginning of negotiations, the ambassador stated that Iran had played a big role in prolonging the cease-fire between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

On Russia's role in Karabakh (?crisis) the ambassador said Russia was of the opinion that Iran's contribution would speed up the process of finding a solution to Karabakh crisis.

On the situation of religious minorities in Iran, Bagratyan believed that violation of rights of religious minorities in Iran was nothing but a mere baseless allegation.

Further elaborating, he referred to the 400-year old Armenian community in Iran, adding that it has still preserved its own culture, customs, language and religion, a fact [words indistinct] Iran's friendly attitude towards minorities.

Stressing that Armenians enjoy full rights in Iran, he said there has been no example of discrimination towards Armenians on the part of Iranian Government.

Expanded Cooperation Sought

LD0305102795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan arrived in Tehran at midday today at the head of a delegation of that country's officials. He was welcomed by First Vice President Habibi. The high-ranking delegation accompanying Mr. Bagratyan on this visit includes two deputy prime ministers and the ministers of culture, health, industry, energy, and agriculture.

After arriving in Tehran, the Armenian prime minister told our correspondent that the objective of his visit is to expand bilateral ties.

Highlights 'Vast Potential'

LD0305220595 Tehran IRNA in English 2146 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 3, Irna—Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan and head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Industries 'Ali Naqi Khamushi here Wednesday [3 May] discussed expansion of Tehran-Yerevan relations and cooperation.

Khamushi at the meeting underlined that Iran was ready for closer cooperation with Central Asian and Caucasian republics including Armenia.

Despite Armenia's facing of numerous problems, the Islamic Republic of Iran had taken initial step for promotion of mutual ties, and was for deepening of bilateral relations in all areas.

Bagratyan, who is here at the head of a high-ranking delegation, drew attention to what he called Armenia's vast potentials, and expressed hope that agreements reached earlier between Tehran and Yerevan would be soon implemented.

The two sides conferred on the proposed waiving of visas for Iranian lorry drivers who ply the transit route and also discussed guarantees for Iranian entrepreneurs interested in investments in the Armenia.

Habibi Stresses Improved Relations

LD0405104195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mutual ties and ways of expanding them were reviewed in the first round of talks between Mr. Habibi, the first vice president of Iran, and Mr. Bagratyan, the prime minister of Armenia.

At the talks, which were held in Tehran last night and attended by a number of ministers, deputy ministers and officials of the two countries, Mr. Habibi stressed the need for friendly and constructive relations between neighboring countries for the creation of an atmosphere of peace and stability in the region.

Referring to the elevation and improvement of relations between Iran and Armenia he said the setting up of the joint economic committee was a turning point in the ties between the two countries. He said the tripartite session of Iran, Armenia, and Turkmenistan was a good experience for regional cooperation.

The Armenian prime minister also expressed gladness about the setting up of the tripartite session of Iran, Armenia, and Turkmenistan for the expansion of regional cooperation. He said: The Armenian authorities will make every effort toward the expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stressed: Armenia is proud of its friendship with Iran, as an important and powerful country in the country.

*Paper on Steadily Increasing Prices of Goods

95LA0171A Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Feb 95 pp 1-2

[FBIS Translated Text] **News Service. High prices are expanding slowly but pervasively on all goods and services.**

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Today there are no labels on goods. The prices change every day. The prices of goods that are subject to the market regulation plan are only seen on the list price of the organization. Some items—with the exception of certain items like sugar and detergent, which are available in massive quantities in the stores—have the price on the label by the organization and this price increases in the next distribution. This is true for such items as cheese and shortening or meat. Nearly five months since implementing the market regulation program, among the major consumer goods only shortening, sugar cubes, sugar, and butter are included in the pricing plan.

With the announcement of the plan to seriously fight high prices and price hiking, many government factories suddenly increased the price of their products so that after they are included in the plan, only a percentage of what they had added to the prices is reduced. Not only is their profit not reduced, but it is doubled.

Unfortunately, despite the demands and needs of the people, which have been reflected again and again in interviews and reports in the media, lack of attention to pricing of necessary goods has caused a chain reaction of price increases on all goods.

A comparison of the price of goods over the past two months indicates that in the area of food, we have had up to a 30-percent increase.

For example, the price of a kg of eggs in the past two months increased from 2,700 to 3,700 rials [R].

The price of a kg of mutton, according to the price charts, increased from R4,500 in early Azar [end of November] to R6,500, which is an increase of about R2,000.

In the area of legumes, the price of every kilogram increased R200-R600.

At the present time, the distribution of foreign butter or domestic production at the approved price takes place on a very limited level, and some stores sell every kg of butter illegally at up to R21,000 per kg.

Regarding some fruits and vegetables, significant price increases have taken place so that some items have seen up to 100-percent price increases.

In the household appliances group, severe price increases can be seen in both the domestic products group and the foreign products group.

For example, the highest price of a Shahab color television set reached R1.15 million in the past two months.

In the Tehran bazaar, with a R280,000 increase, it is sold at R1.38 million [as published]. The price of a Nasiyunal meat grinder that was sold at its top price two months ago at R255,000 is now, with a R65,000 increase, sold at R320,000.

The prices of domestically produced refrigerators and freezers have also increased R150,000 to R200,000 in the same period.

In the imported household appliances group as well, the prices have increased on the average R300,000 above the prices of two months ago.

In interviews with our reporter, some citizens demanded serious action by the government, the Ministry of Commerce, the [Consumer] Protection Organization [CPO], and other organizations in controlling prices and decreasing the price of their consumer goods.

One of those questioned, in response to the question of what policies the government should devise to control prices, said: The government or the market regulation headquarters, which is a committee composed of government officials, must participate directly in this fight.

Every time the government neglects to fight price hikers and steps aside, it is a disadvantage to the government. The people will no longer count on the government statements and actions in controlling the market and prices.

An employee who said he was retired from the military added: The high prices are wreaking havoc; when people buy an item at the previous day's price, they cannot believe it. The situation is such that the people themselves are prepared to buy goods at a percentage higher than yesterday.

One of the producers in the aluminum industry said: Pricing all the consumer products is a good step that should continue, but honestly, see which of the domestic producers adhere to the ratified prices. In various ways, they add to the price of their products while others are fined by the Organization for Government Punishments and Supervision Over the Price and Distribution of Goods.

Kind of Goods	Mid-Azar [22 Nov-21 Dec] Rial Price	Mid-Bahman [21 January-19 February] Rial Price	Rial Price Ratified by CPO
1. Half-kg Iranian Bahareh tea	1,900	1,900	Ratified price
2. Imported red tea	5,300	6,500	No ratified price [NRP]
3. Chicken	2,700	3,800	NRP
4. Mutton	5,000	6,500	NRP
5. Beef	5,300	6,800	NRP
6. Iranian rice	2,200	2,500	NRP
7. U.S. rice	1,800	2,300	NRP

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Kind of Goods	Mid-Azar [22 Nov-21 Dec] Rial Price	Mid-Bahman [21 January-19 February] Rial Price	Rial Price Ratified by CPO
8. Thailand rice	1,700	1,900	NRP
9. Cone sugar	1,210	1,210	1,210
10. Sugar cubes	1,260	1,260	1,260
11. Sugar	1,100	1,100	1,100
12. 4.5-kg shortening	10,500	10,590	10,500-R10,590
13. Lentils, per kg	2,000	2,200	NRP
14. Kidney beans	1,700	2,000	NRP
15. Chick peas	1,700	2,500	NRP
16. Split peas	1,900	2,500	NRP
17. Imported foreign cheese, per kg	3,660	4,240	NRP
18. Average Iranian cheese	4,300	4,900	NRP
19. Foreign butter, 1,000 g [grams]	18,000	21,000	NRP
20. Pasteurized butter, 100 g	Not available	Not available	600 Ratified
21. 1st-grade tomato paste	2,000	2,400	NRP
22. Eggs, per carton	2,600	3,700	NRP
23. 480-g powdered detergent	900	900	900 Ratified
24. 500-g powdered detergent	1,200	1,200	1,200 Ratified
25. Pars Khazar 12-person rice cooker	83,000	95,000	NRP
26. Nasiyunal meat grinder	255,000	320,000	NRP
27. Shahab 21-inch color TV	1.15 million	1.29 million	NRP
28. Samsung color TV, model 539	1.1 million	1.38 million	NRP
29. Sony color TV, model 2192	1.37 million	2.15 million	NRP
30. Panasonic TV, model 2185	1.65 million	1.95 million	NRP
31. Pars 20-inch black/white TV	210,000	245,000	NRP
32. IAWA VCR	780,000	890,000	NRP
33. Azmayesh 6-ft refrigerator	410,000	560,000	NRP
34. Azmayesh 8-ft refrigerator	450,000	600,000	NRP
35. Iran Puya 9-ft refrigerator	450,000	600,000	NRP
36. Arj 12-ft refrigerator	700,000	910,000	NRP
37. Pars 12-ft refrigerator	740,000	930,000	NRP
38. Pars 12-ft freezer	800,000	101,000 [as published]	NRP
39. Arj 15-ft freezer	1.32 million	1.54 million	NRP
40. Arj automatic washing machine	1.02 million	1.25 million	NRP
41. Lebanese red apples	In vegetable markets, 750	In vegetable markets, 750	1,100
42. Northern Thompson oranges	800	850	1,100
43. Sweet lemons		300	500
44. Large tangerines		450	800
45. Southern Thompson [oranges]		1,100	1,500
46. Cucumbers		600	800-R900
47. Fresh herbs		350	600
48. Cauliflower		350	500

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Kind of Goods	Mid-Azar [22 Nov-21 Dec] Rial Price	Mid-Bahman [21 January-19 February] Rial Price	Rial Price Ratified by CPO
49. Potatoes		350	600
50. Onions		300	400

*Mines, Metals Production at 75 Million Tons

95LA0162B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Feb 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Bojnurd—Mines and metals production increased from 21.06 million tons at the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan to 74.24 million tons at the end of it.

Our correspondent reports that this was announced in an interview with the deputy minister of mines and metals for mines and material products, who went to Jajorm to inspect progress on the Alumina Factory and Project.

He discussed the success of the Ministry of Mines and Metals during the First Five-Year Plan. He said: The main success of the Ministry of Mines and Metals was in meeting society's needs for mined goods and metals, so that production of steel increased from 1 million tons at the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan to 4 million tons at the end of it, copper production increased from 35,000 tons to 100,000 tons, aluminum production increased from 25,000 tons to 120,000 tons, and mined products increased from 20 million tons to 70 million tons.

This official discussed the programs of the Ministry of Mines and Metals for the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: In the Second Five-Year Plan the Ministry of Mines and Metals hopes to produce up to 20,000 tons of copper, 7 million tons of steel, 240 million tons of alumina and 100 million tons of mined products and by-products.

He discussed imports, mining equipment, the aluminum factory and foreign exchange problems. He said: Fortunately, with the agreement of the Central Bank and the nation's official, the payment of $40 million in foreign exchange will not create any problem for the factory's equipment imports, and it is hoped that before the year 1376 [21 March 1998] the Alumina Project will go into operation.

He discussed this project's role in the region's prosperity and growth. He said: The project's greatest help to the area is the movement and flow of affairs. He added: With the implementation of this $300-million project and the production of 250,000 tons of alumina, $60 million will be saved annually, and this will bring prosperity to the municipality of Bojnurd and Jajorm.

It is worth mentioning that construction on the Jajorm Alumina Production Project began at the beginning of the year 1369 [21 March 1990], and so far 12,000 tons of equipment has been imported and is being installed.

So far the construction of this factory has cost 80 billion rials [R], and another R150 billion will be spent by the time the project is completed.

Nepal

Prime Minister Views PRC Visit, Human Rights

BK0205105995 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 20 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Yuba Nath Lamsal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, 19 April: Nepal and China have expressed a common resolve for peace, stability, development and human rights in the world and pledged to work together for achieving these lofty goals by respecting each other's sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and helping each other.

Nepal reiterated its commitment that it would not allow its soil for any anti-China activities and also supported China's stance on human rights. China has appreciated Nepal's policy and pledged to provide more cooperation for Nepal's bid for development and modernisation.

"We share many commonalities with China including its stance on human rights and we are opposed to any sort of interference in the internal affairs of a country in the name of human rights," said Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari talking to the Nepalese journalists today in Beijing before leaving for Shanghai.

"We will not allow any activities that are designed to harm China and other neighbor from the territory of Nepal", Mr. Adhikari said referring to China's apprehension about the growing anti-China activities over the last couple of years in the name of, "Free Tibet Movement."

"We support China's territorial integrity and that both Tibet and Taiwan are integral parts of China," he said.

Mr. Adhikari had also made Nepal's position clear regarding Tibet Autonomous Region of China even during his visit to India saying, "We neither allow Tibetans nor Kashmiris to use our land against our neighbors."

Though Nepal is small both in size and population and is also far behind China in terms of development, China always considers Nepal as an equal partner in the world community and wants to develop relations with Nepal on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence. Chinese leaders clearly expressed these views during the meeting with the Nepalese Prime Minister.

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Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng said China had very positive and friendly attitude towards Nepal.

"Our relations with Nepal are always based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, which can serve as the best example of cooperation between countries of different social systems," Mr. Li said.

The major thrust of five-day official visit of Prime Minister Mr Adhikari is to boost and expand economic relations and cooperation with China, broaden trade, and attract more Chinese investment to Nepal.

Mr. Adhikari discussed these matters with Chinese leaders and both president and premier of China, Mr. Zemin and Mr. Li, have agreed to work in this regard.

"We have given a list of project proposals to China and China has assured us to assist only after a detailed studies and consultation about them," said Mr. Adhikari.

"We want Chinese assistance on the basis of involvement rather than mere grant," he said.

Nepal and China formally established their diplomatic relation in 1955 and both countries have had no problems since then. China has always been a generous partner in Nepal's development.

The current visit of Nepalese Prime Minister to China has added a new dimension to the already existing friendly relations between Nepal and China, which Prime Minister described as, "a beginning of new era in the history of Nepal-China relations."

Nepalese and Chinese prime ministers also emphasized the need for enhancing relations by exchanging visits at different levels.

Prime Minister Adhikari invited Mr. Li to visit Nepal, which Chinese premier accepted with pleasure and thanked Mr. Adhikari for the invitation. These are the indications that Nepal and China are getting closer and becoming more friendly.

"We share the same wish as you and think that companies and factories of both countries can discuss economic and technical cooperation and joint venture," said Mr. Li.

China pledged to provide Nepal with more than 460 million rupees for the development projects mutually agreed by the two countries.

Nepal and China have also agreed to explore new areas of economic cooperation. The delegations of the two countries also signed four separate letters of exchange on economic and technical cooperation.

Nepal is the only country that China has provided grant assistance. Nepal is also learnt to have discussed with China some more priority projects for Chinese assistance and joint venture, like water resource, infrastructure, banking, textile and cement manufacturing. Nepal has also requested China to construct Baglung-Tatopani Myagdi road and develop Kathmandu-Tibet tourism.

Evaluating his visit, Prime Minister Adhikari said "both governments and parties are getting closer and I hope this visit will provide an opportunity to benefit Nepal from the experience of China."

Prime Minister Adhikari is concluding his visit to China tomorrow and leaving for Mongolia.

Pakistan

Iranian Envoy Criticizes 'Desperate' U.S. Policy

BK0405092695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—The relationship between Iran and Pakistan is so strong that no one could dare to break it. With the passage of time the bilateral ties would further increase.

This was stated by the Iranian Ambassador at a luncheon he hosted for the senior journalists here at Iranian Embassy Wednesday [3 May].

Countering the recent US propaganda against Iran, the diplomat said America was again resorting to irrational and desperate diplomatic gestures which it had used against his country way back in 1979. He observed the truth was that the US governments had failed to understand the nature and dimensions of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

"Instead of attempting to rectify previous mistakes, the American officials embarked on a series of irrational actions, including the confiscation and blocking Iranian assets in US, the severance of relationship, the failed aggression on Iran's territory in Tabas, orchestrating military coups, recruiting local terrorists and saboteurs, provoking the Iraqi regime to invade Iran, and initiating a massive wave of propaganda against the Islamic revolution in Iran in order to mislead public opinion". They even dared to speak of drying out the roots of the grand Iranian nation with its age old civilisation, he added.

He said it is unclear how much credence the American officials accord to the wisdom of people throughout the world when they seek to present their aggressive push to sell weapons to others as a service to the peace, democracy, and human rights, or when they seek to preserve their illegitimate and colonial interests in the region by portraying Iran as a threat or an obstruction.

The Iranian ambassador pointed out that his country established the veracity of its position in the United Nations and today is pursuing its reconstruction and development plans with great success.

He stated categorically that his country, which is relying on its potentials human resources [as received], devoted and politically aware public, a stable system, and geo-strategic location, is no place for new American adventurism.

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He pointed out that Iran can easily terminate the existing economic relations with the US whenever it deems appropriate, while continuing its reconstruction programme with full force. "Such illegal and irrational acts of US government can only lead to regional instability and disruption in a healthy International political and economic relation, he added.

Dailies React to Sanctions Against Iran

Paper Labels U.S. 'Bully'

BK0305110295 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 3 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Iran-Bashing"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As widely expected, President Clinton has announced a set of sanctions against Tehran banning US companies to have trade and investment links with that country citing Iran's alleged support of international terrorism and its nuclear programme as reasons. Iran has dismissed these allegations as baseless, contending that US has failed to provide any evidence to prove that it supports terrorism. On [the] nuclear issue, Tehran has pointed out that its facility is regularly examined by International Atomic Energy Agency which has given it a clean bill of health. The country has also drawn the world attention to the state of Israel which possesses over one hundred atomic bombs and has consistently refused to allow the Agency to observe its installations. Yet no sanctions have been imposed on Tel Aviv. In fact, no one believes that the grounds on which the ban is imposed are genuine. Apparently, these pretexts have been manufactured to justify the victimisation against a major Islamic nation. After the defeat of Iraq in the Gulf War and the subsequent destruction of its industrial and military potential, the US decided to mobilise its resources against Iran, which poses serious threat to its imperialist domination of Middle East in economic and strategic fields. There are a number of special features of the present regime in Tehran which worry America; it enjoys tremendous popular support which enables it to pursue independent policies and withstand massive external pressures whether economic or military in nature. Washington does not feel easy with nationalist governments having deep roots in their people especially when they happen to be close to oilfields which the US controls physically. Washington would have dearly loved to start a military operation of Desert Storm variety against Iran too, but the situations are vastly different in the two countries. Cost of invading Iran would be very high both politically and militarily and, unlike the Gulf war, there would be nobody to foot the bill. The US has, therefore, gone for the option of economic strangulation. The self-respecting stand taken by Iranian leadership has been vastly appreciated by the people of Pakistan.

Most of the independent observers believe that the sanctions announced are not going to hurt Iran any more than the US itself. One only pities the futile activities of a soft-brained superpower which does not know what to do with its power except to bully others.

Paper Views Russian Factor

BK0405091695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 May 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Embargo Against Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Bill Clinton, who has decided to try for a second term, launched his election drive by denouncing Iran as a terrorist state and banning all trade with it. The announcement appropriately was made at a World Jewish Congress dinner he was addressing, where it must have gone down well with the receptive audience. A few days earlier, Washington had issued the latest list of states it perceives as exporting terrorism or indulging in it. Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan, Cuba and North Korea were billed as the countries that were under careful surveillance.

In the case of Iran, however, the United States appears to be determined to go much further as the denunciation also targets it as a state which could cause nuclear proliferation. This allegation, ironically, is post-dated as it will only take effect as and when Iran sets up its nuclear complex it is getting from Russia and begins processing weapon-grade plutonium. The American attitude in this respect closely resembles the proverb—counting the chickens before they are hatched—but in this case it is counting them even before the eggs are laid.

As a part of its campaign to wean away Iran from the evils of terrorism and nuclear proliferation, the United States is seeking to impose an economic embargo on the state. This means that the exercise is primarily targeted at Iran's huge oil exports, which have increased dramatically as the country overcame the effects of the devastating war with Iraq. This again raises the question whether the effort is truly aimed at making the world safe from nuclear proliferation or helping out the loyal oil exporting allies in the Middle East. A possible reduction in Iranian oil sales will greatly benefit the Gulf states, assuring a jump in prices and sales, which is already taking place.

Apart from whether Washington has the moral and legal wherewithal to brand states as good or bad, the issue is basically tied to Russia's sale of a nuclear power plant to Iran. The crux of the United States' case is somewhat strange as it sees the plant as having the potential to enable Iran to become a nuclear power. Such a rationale, if extended further, could make every state which has such power plants to become suspect, and might even be liable to punitive action. At the same time it could even impose an untenable condition on the sale and purchase of nuclear power plants, requiring Washington's prior permission, above and beyond that of getting a fitness certificate from IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency].

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The United States' angst over the nuclear issue has reached a stage where it is decidedly becoming bizarre and totally out of touch with reality. With an increasing number of states opting for nuclear power, Washington's self-imposed role as a nuclear policeman could run into serious snags. If there is a threat of nuclear proliferation, that problem should be addressed with the consensus of all nations, rather than taking unilateral decisions. Opening a dialogue with Iran rather than threatening it, would help in removing a lot of misunderstandings between the two countries.

Daily Cites 'Blatant Inconsistencies'

BK0405095295 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 4 May 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The US Anti-Iran Campaign"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US decision to impose a trade and investment embargo on Iran has provoked a tough response from the latter. Iran's President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani contended Tuesday [2 May] that such an embargo would not damage his country: 'In a world which has pressing need for energy resources, Iran cannot be shut out of world markets.' On a more defiant note the head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Mohsen Rezai, called upon his forces to prepare for war. While his observation that confrontation with the US was inevitable may be aimed at underlining Iran's resolve not to buckle under US pressure, there also appears to be genuine concern in Iran with regard to the intentions of the US given its considerable military presence in the region. The US drive to project Iran as the greatest threat to peace and to isolate it politically as well as economically has gained momentum in recent months, leading to President Clinton's decision to sever already heavily restricted US economic ties with Iran. The US view of Iran as a major stumbling block to stability in the Middle East through its support of organisations like Hamas and the Hizbullah had already led to its being characterised as the foremost sponsor of state-terrorism in the world. But, more recently, the US has started emphasising Iran's alleged quest for nuclear weapons, probably in response to pressure from Israel as well as pro-Zionist groups in the US, and has moved to intensify the campaign against Iran. Nevertheless, its unilateral moves and increasingly strident rhetoric against Iran have evoked little by way of international response needed to give the US position the semblance of a principled stand. So far, both China and Russia have rejected pleas by the US against nuclear cooperation with Iran and Moscow continues to assert that the nuclear reactors it intends to supply would not contribute to the building of nuclear weapons by Iran. The issue, Moscow contends, is no different from that of the supply of nuclear reactors to North Korea, in a deal put together by the United States. Similarly, the European Union has refused to go along with the line of action proposed by the US against Iran as has Japan. It is likely, though, that the US pressure will have some effect on the others. Already, according to press reports German and Dutch banks have stopped financing a 50-million dollars project in Tehran and the Japanese prime minister has deferred a decision on loans to Iran. Similarly, the US president is expected to make a major effort to get Russian President Boris Yeltsin to review the decision on supplying nuclear reactors to Iran when the two meet next week.

It needs to be pointed out, however, that such tactics against Iran will continue to lack credibility and moral force given the blatant inconsistencies in the US approach. While the US, for instance, is raising such a hue and cry about Iran's alleged intent to manufacture nuclear weapons, Israel which is known to possess a vast nuclear weapons arsenal continues to be fully supported and backed by the US without even a hint of pressure to dispense with its weapons or limit its capability. Such a policy is also likely to strengthen the extremists within Iran and is unlikely to help create a stable environment in the region. Pakistan, in any case, has made it clear that it will not become a party to the campaign against Iran. It should seek to persuade the US to review its hardline policy and to resolve its differences with Iran through negotiations rather than confrontation.

Editorial Rejects U.S. Diplomatic 'Idle Talk'

BK0405140195 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 3 May 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Two-Track Diplomacy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riaz Khokhar, the Pakistani high commissioner to India, says the United States has initiated two-track diplomacy between Pakistan and India. Unless the Kashmir issue is resolved, however, such diplomacy lacks any significance and can only be considered idle talk. Moreover, such diplomacy is not expected to help establish peace in the subcontinent. On the one hand the Pakistani high commissioner called two-track diplomacy idle talk, but on the other he attended the Goa and Shanghai talks on a "personal" basis. He said he did not represent the Pakistani Government in these talks, but attended them on personal basis. The question is: As a high commissioner, what is his personal status? Second, what will be achieved through popular and personal contacts to solve the serious issues between Pakistan and India? If representatives of the two governments cannot resolve their bilateral issues through negotiations, what can the popular circles of the two sides achieve through their meetings, even if they try hard?

The high commissioner acknowledged that durable peace cannot be established without the resolution of the Kashmir issue. It is a fact that the Kashmir problem has always been the source of tension. More than 600,000 Indian forces have been carrying out atrocities in Kashmir for the past five or six years, but India cannot bring the situation under control. It is feared that India might invade Pakistan out of disappointment at this failure. International circles feel that if war breaks out now between Pakistan and India, it will be a nuclear war

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that will prove devastating. The United States should realize these facts. It should not hope that if a few Pakistani and Indian intellectuals sit down together they can solve such serious issues. Peace in the subcontinent can be ensured only when the Indian Government conducts a plebiscite in Kashmir. Instead of describing the coming July elections as a referendum, it should allow the Kashmiris to give a mandate on whether they want to join Pakistan or India, as provided by the UN resolutions. No other solution to the Kashmir problem is possible.

There is another condition for the establishment of peace in the subcontinent. India should rein in its expansionist and hegemonic desires. It should not become troublesome for its smaller neighbors; it should adopt a policy of live and let live, abandon the dream of becoming a mini superpower, and adopt a policy of developing relations in the community of nations on the basis of equality. If Riaz Khokhhar still wants to entertain himself with idle talk despite all of this, it is up to him.

Authorities Arrest 'Drug Baron' Wanted by U.S.

BK0405100195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 May 95 p 1

[Report by Raja Zulfikar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—The Anti-Narcotics authorities have arrested another drug baron who had been wanted by the United States for about three years, sources told The News. He may also be extradited.

Well informed sources told The News Wednesday [3 May] that a full fledged investigation was being carried out to ascertain more facts about the accused who was taken into custody from Lahore.

The authorizes of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) are, however, keeping details about the man close to their chest. "We will be coming out before the press after a little more investigation," an ANF official said.

The accused, identified by sources as Khushnood Butt, is presently in the custody of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and there were reports that a lobby was active in getting him released.

Unconfirmed reports say Khushnood Butt was arrested from a gambling den in Lahore. "He was himself gambling at that time," sources said.

Originally, he was arrested by the police on gambling charge but later he was identified as the most wanted man by the USA. "We are still verifying, if he is the same man," a cautious officials of the ANF said.

Informed sources said the anti-narcotics authorities had gone active after the arrest of Khushnood Butt and were conducting raids to bust other dens, allegedly being operated or co-owned by accomplices of the principle accused. But so far no confirmation of further arrests has been made by the authorities.

Commenting on the arrest, the senior officials of the ANF said they had written requests by the US for extradition of Butt. "According to our information, the USA is looking for him since 1993 in serious events of drug smuggling," another official said.

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